

## Tang Sect 291

### Chapter 291.1: Wang Dong'er's Fifth Soul Skill

Xu Tianran said, "I'm even more fascinated and interested in this battle after listening to your analysis. Let's just wait and see."

The judge had entered the arena by now. He announced the rules of the round robin stage before he added a final announcement. "Group one: the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy versus the Tang Sect. Participants, please enter the waiting area. Will the first contestants of the single elimination phase please step on stage?"

Both teams stood up at almost the same time, with the exception of Huo Yuhao. Their gazes met, and sparks seemed to fly in that instant. Huo Yuhao's eyes were still closed, as if he were actually sleeping.

Wang Qiu'er's eyes were ice-cold, but her eyes were locked on Huo Yuhao from the beginning to the end. She frowned involuntarily when she noticed that he hadn't opened his eyes at all. The Tang Sect had forfeited the last round, and she was incredibly displeased with their decision. Will they give this round up as well? No matter what happens, I will lead Shrek Academy into the next round. We have to defeat the Sun Moon Empire's team, and we will also have to defeat the Tang Sect. What should I do if they abandon this round once more?

Thoughts were still spinning around in Wang Qiu'er's head while the contestants entered the waiting area.

Nan Qiuqiu whispered to Jing Ziyang beside her over at the Tang Sect's camp. "Do you think we can win this round? That's the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy! They came in second place in the previous round, and I've heard that they've been second place for two seasons in a row. They have never lost to anyone else besides the Shrek Academy team."

Jing Ziyang answered mysteriously, "Does that mean you favor our opponents in this round?"

Nan Qiuqiu said, "Of course. We forfeited the last round, but why aren't we forfeiting this one? It's better for us if we conserve our strength and our energy to fight the other teams. This is the first round, and if we end up losing this round and we all end up wounded and exhausted, doesn't that mean we're going home?"

Jing Ziyang felt a little speechless. "Does that mean you believe we have the ability to defeat the Shrek Academy team? If we forfeit this round and we lose against Shrek Academy, how do we progress to the next round? Only two teams from each group can progress into the quarter-finals."

Nan Qiuqiu widened her eyes. "What? You think the Tang Sect, a sect without any reputation at all, can progress into the quarter-finals? Are you sure about what you just said? Unless every single one of them is as powerful as you are, how can they progress into the quarter-finals? It's just not possible. Their most optimal choice should be to try their best to win a few rounds in the group stage, so that they can have a good ranking at the end."

Jing Ziyang chuckled and said, "I wouldn't be so sure about that. How about, let's have a bet?"

Nan Qiuqiu had always been rather stubborn and defiant. “What are we betting on? How’s that going to work?”

Jing Ziyang replied, “We can bet on who emerges victorious in this round. You favor the Sun Moon Empire’s team, right? I am betting that the Tang Sect will win this round. If you win, I will take you Radiant City’s most lavish and luxurious hotel for a delicious meal. But if you lose, you have to fight against me one-versus-one over ten different occasions, and split over ten different days. Your annihilation element is quite interesting.”

The corner of Nan Qiuqiu’s mouth twitched, and it was evident that she was reminiscing about a certain unpleasant memory. She deliberated for a little while, and she nodded vigorously as she said, “Alright, it’s a done deal, then. You can’t cheat, though. I feel like I can already see a sumptuous meal in front of me.”

Jing Ziyang said arrogantly, “I will make this bet with you, in the name of the Tang Sect’s glory. If I lose, so be it, and all I have to do is spend some money to take you out for a meal. It’s a deal, neither of us can cheat.”

Ji Juechen was sitting on Jing Ziyang’s other side, and his mouth twitched, but his eyes were as calm as always. His gaze was fixated on Huo Yuhao. This epic battle will surely inspire me in some way. It’s your show, Yuhao. But how much of your true abilities can you unleash with the state that your body is in?

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Both teams were inside the waiting area at this point.

Xiao Hongchen gestured to one of the Sun Moon Empire’s team members, and the youth immediately leapt to his feet and jumped onto the competition stage. He was big and tall, and his shoulders were extremely broad. His eyes were cool and collected, and he seemed very calm to the people watching him. He could be considered very dignified and rather dashing, with especially wide hands, with long and slender fingers. The audience could tell that he was quite formidable as soon as he got onto the competition stage.

Wang Dong’er patted Huo Yuhao’s right hand gently over in the Tang Sect’s camp, and she stood up from her seat.

Huo Yuhao finally opened his eyes as she stood up. His eyes were cold, and could even be described as grim and unfeeling. Huo Yuhao gave a faint nod back to Wang Dong’er, but he didn’t say anything else.

Wang Dong’er tapped on the ground with her foot and drifted onto the competition stage. The protective soul barriers rose from the ground the moment she stepped onto the stage and separated the contestants from the outside world.

“It’s Wang Dong!” Meng Hongchen was seated inside the waiting area, and she felt as if a bucket of ice-cold water had just splashed over her fighting spirit and extinguished half of it.

A strange smile broke out across Xiao Hongchen’s face. “Looks like the heavens are on our side, and it was the right decision not to let you take point. If you accidentally lost to him, we would have had real problems in the subsequent rounds.”

Meng Hongchen bit down on her lower lip and mumbled under her breath, "If only I had known Wang Dong was the first one, then I would have told Shi Xing to have some mercy and not land any killing blows. It's too late now! What should I do?"

Xiao Hongchen was clearly exasperated, but he didn't seem surprised by her reaction at all. "Whose side are you on? The question we should be thinking about is whether we can win this round!"

They were quarreling on their side, while Wang Dong'er and the youth from the Sun Moon Empire's team walked to the center of the stage.

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The judge glanced at them both as he lowered his voice and said, "This is the first fight of the round robin stage. Be careful, you two, and try your best not to wound or cripple your opponent. I will immediately separate the two of you once I deem one party to be victorious, and neither party is to continue attacking. Otherwise, I will declare the violator disqualified. Do you understand?"

There were too many people who were either wounded or dead from the elimination rounds, and the organizing committee had shouldered quite some pressure. It was natural that they would require the judges to be a lot stricter than before.

The youth from the Sun Moon Empire's team nodded and said, "My name is Shi Xing. Remember my name; perhaps it will follow you for the rest of your life." He turned around towards the edge next to his camp as he spoke.

Wang Dong'er frowned and asked the judge, "Are youths nowadays all so ridiculous?"

The corner of the judge's mouth twitched. "Prepare for battle. This competition relies on fighting strength and abilities, not how powerful your mouth is."

Wang Dong'er said plainly, "Don't be biased. Otherwise, you will regret it."

The judge was momentarily stunned. He had been the judge for quite a few rounds during the elimination round, and this was the first time that he was encountering somebody that dared to threaten a judge! This fellow was a little outrageous!

Wang Dong'er was just about to turn around and return to her own side, but she suddenly saw someone waving to her from the other side... wasn't that Meng Hongchen? Wang Dong'er glanced at her helplessly, and she waved back at the same time before she retreated to her own side.

Meng Hongchen instantly became excited as she turned towards Xiao Hongchen and said, "Did you see that, brother? He waved to me! Did you see how exasperated and helpless he looked? It's clear that he doesn't want to face us in battle. We have to get him into our academy after the competition, no matter what! I can be with him that way!"

"Shut up! You're so hopelessly infatuated. I've had enough of you. Sit your ass down, you have utterly disgraced the Hongchen family." Xiao Hongchen was practically growling as softly as he could.

Wang Dong'er's eyes met Huo Yuhao's eyes when she turned back around and walked towards her own camp. Huo Yuhao's eyes were ice-cold at this moment, as if he was in an entirely different state altogether, and he made a gesture at her.

Wang Dong'er nodded softly to show that she understood.

She walked all the way to the competition stage's edge before she turned back around once more. However, she could see just as she was turning around that the judge's arm had already swung downwards to signal that the fight had begun.

Do you have to be so obviously biased? Wang Dong'er frowned faintly. She wasn't hasty to charge forward, and her eyes sparkled as a pair of dazzling wings extended from behind her back.

Enormous blue wings covered her entire back, and she was immediately blanketed with a beautiful bluish-golden layer of light. Her Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings flickered with golden spots, and it felt as if these spots had come alive as a dense aura of light surged into the sky.

The first person to make a move was Shi Xing, who was representing the Sun Moon Empire's team. He took a step out and dashed forward as his flying-type soul tool extended out behind his body at the same time. It took two accelerations before he surged into the sky and flew high into the air. Four streaks of brilliant white light erupted from behind his flying-type soul tool and propelled his body into the sky like a shooting star.

A Class 4 scarlet-red explosive shell barreled toward Wang Dong'er as he soared through the sky.

This season was just like the last one, and soul engineers were not allowed to use stationary soul tools. Class 4 explosive shells had a similar reputation to Milk Bottles amongst Class 4 soul tools, and they were extremely powerful. However, a longer time was needed to charge them up. That Shi Xing could control his flying-type soul tool to rise through the air while firing an explosive shell so quickly meant he was quite adept with soul tools.

Wang Dong'er shifted her mouth indifferently as she flapped her wings gently and rose into the sky along with him.

The reason why Huo Yuhao agreed to let her take the first round was substantially related to the fact that she could fly. Sects and academies that consisted mostly of soul engineers had a higher win rate in the elimination rounds before this because of the tournament's new rules. The immense advantage that soul engineers had because they could fly was just too evident.

Wang Dong'er shot into the sky like an arrow, but a strange scene occurred immediately afterwards... the Class 4 explosive shell suddenly changed direction and followed closely behind her!

### [Chapter 291.2: Wang Dingers Fifth Soul Skill](#)

An explosive shell with tracking abilities? Then it's not a Class 4 shell anymore. But why does its power look like a Class 4 shell? Huo Yuhao's brain was calculating rapidly in the Tang Sect's waiting area.

This round was especially important for the Tang Sect, and Wang Dong'er was the first one to fight. Huo Yuhao was afraid that he would lose his cool and his rationality because he was too concerned, and that he wouldn't keep his calm to continue commanding his team in the tournament. Therefore, when his eyes were closed before this, he was using one of the skills of necromancy that he had learned from the Calamity Necromancer, Electrolux, which was called the Necromancer's Silent Heart. This skill allowed him to enter a peculiarly calm state, and the skill also greatly boosted his senses. The only downside was

that he would be incapable of any emotions at all over the next day, and he would only use the most rational and reasonable methods to think about things.

Wang Dong'er's second soul ring sparkled, and a golden light burst forth from the light spots on her wings behind her. The sphere of light immediately collided with the explosive shell hurtling through the air.

Intense explosions could be heard, and sphere of scorching red light over ten meters in diameter instantly lit up the sky. The violent shockwaves that resulted from the collision caused the air in the sky to twist and contort.

This was a Class 5 explosive shell after all, and the shell possessed power close to a Class 6 soul tool's attack. Shi Xing was sophisticated, indeed!

Shi Xing revealed five soul rings; two yellow and three purple rings, which contrasted with Wang Dong'er's two yellow, two purple, and two black soul rings. Wang Dong'er's ring combination was the most optimal combination, and she was also a Soul Emperor. There was quite a gap between their cultivations.

However, since Shi Xing could unleash a Class 5 explosive shell with tracking abilities within such a short period of time, it was likely that he wasn't far from his sixth ring even though he only had five rings at the moment.

The vigorous shockwaves touched Wang Dong'er in the end, and forced her body upwards. On the other side, three more explosive shells whistled through the air and formed a triangular formation in the sky. This formation completely locked Wang Dong'er in and sealed everything off as she rose up through the air.

Wang Dong'er wasn't hasty to soar upwards, but neither did she intend to meet these shells head-on. She withdrew her wings, and plummeted down through the air just like that. However, the explosive shells could lock onto her and track her down, and they immediately pursued her as she fell. Wang Dong'er didn't seem like she was about to reduce her speed, and she plunged down right towards the ground. The location that she was going towards was actually where the judge was, and she began to shout as she continued diving through the air, "Watch out, please move away!"

The judge received a rude shock. They were only in the round robin stage, so they couldn't send that powerful a soul master out to be the judge. He was a seven-ringed Soul Sage, but he still couldn't take the force of three explosive shells detonating at the same time. What's this dude from the Tang Sect trying to do? Is he trying to die together with me?

The judge released his martial soul in his astonishment, and his body moved several dozen meters away in a flash. He was actually an agility-type soul master!

Wang Dong'er had no intention of letting him go. She expanded her wings again, and switched directions gracefully in the air as she chased after the judge.

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Back on the rostrum, Xu Tianran said plainly, "Relieve that judge of his duties after the competition. You have to be discerning even if you're biased. He's going to disgrace our empire by showing such bias when everyone's watching. What an idiot."

"Yes." Cold light flashed across Ju Zi's eyes. However, the image of her and Wang Dong'er healing Huo Yuhao together surfaced in her mind at this moment.

He must know that she's a girl by now. They... are they together now?

Ju Zi could feel her heart starting to palpitate as this question appeared in her mind.

"Why are your hands so cold, Ju Zi?" Xu Tianran asked confusedly.

Ju Zi felt her heart skip a beat and said hurriedly, "The tournament is too exciting. Perhaps I'm just a little nervous."

Xu Tianran smiled, "You can't be crushing on that youth from the Tang Sect, can you? He's the most handsome man I've ever seen, though. I couldn't match up to him even if I could walk."

Ju Zi couldn't help but laugh. "Are you envious, your Highness?"

Xu Tianran chortled and said, "I'm also a man, how can I not be envious?" He was wearing a smile on his face, but the sparkle in his eyes was as cold as ever. He couldn't please his women, so deep in his heart, he was quite afraid that his women wouldn't be loyal to him. He couldn't take it even if it was just emotional disloyalty. However, Ju Zi's next sentence pacified the fury that was just rising in his heart.

Ju Zi continued, "I'm glad that you're envious for me, because that means you care about me. However, there's no need to be envious about a girl, is there?"

"A girl?" Xu Tianran was momentarily stunned.

Ju Zi bent down beside his ear and whispered, "Can't you tell that Wang Dong is a girl? How could a man be that good-looking?"

Xu Tianran was still shocked. "So, she's a girl. How did you find out?"

Ju Zi smiled and replied, "Didn't you ask me to investigate the Tang Sect? My people made that judgment from their intel and observations. She's not just a girl, I think she's together with Huo Yuhao. They stay with each other every day, and she's the one that takes care of him."

"A girl, huh. She would be very pretty if she were wearing women's clothes." Xu Tianran murmured to himself. However, his eyes suddenly became cruel and fierce as he spoke.

If... if I hadn't lost the ability to be a man, how many beautiful girls like that would I have for myself?

"You're hurting me, your Highness!" Ju Zi exclaimed agonizingly.

Xu Tianran froze, and his eyes quickly returned to normal. "I'm sorry."

Ju Zi grabbed his hand and said, "It's alright, your Highness. Please don't think too much about that. The empire's technology is so advanced, it's just a matter of time before we discover something that can heal your wounds."

“Yes,” Xu Tianran nodded. “Let’s watch the competition.”

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The scene on stage had changed drastically as they were talking. Wang Dong’er was right about to crash into the ground as she plunged through the air, and the judge was running away as quickly as he could. He wasn’t a seven-ringed Soul Sage for nothing, and it wasn’t that easy for Wang Dong’er to catch up to him even though she was flying through the air.

The ground was right before her eyes. Wang Dong’er suddenly turned around, and her slender legs tapped lightly on the floor’s surface. She bounced off the ground at the moment the three explosive shells behind her were about to touch her, and she flew back into the sky at lightning speed.

Boom, boom, boom!

Three violent explosions rang out at almost the same time. Even though the competition stage was reinforced by soul tools, it couldn’t take an explosion as forceful as this one. Metal pieces flew in all directions, and intense shockwaves reached every corner of the competition stage. But those shockwaves only seemed to push Wang Dong’er’s away, and helped her rise even faster through the air. Wang Dong’er was covered by a golden light, and the shockwaves didn’t hurt her at all.

However, a frightening pressure descended from the sky right at that moment.

Shi Xing naturally wasn’t idle when Wang Dong’er was falling through the sky with three explosive shells on her tail. The attack that he had just launched was meant to preoccupy her. Xiao Hongchen had already shared his findings regarding the Tang Sect with his companions before this, and Wang Dong’er was one of the people that they had to pay extra attention to. They were already aware that Wang Dong’er had six rings now.

Even Shi Xing himself didn’t expect his second round of explosive shells would force Wang Dong’er to tuck tail and run. Distance was extremely important in a fight between soul engineers and soul masters, and soul engineers would reign supreme if there was enough distance between the two parties.

Shi Xing was decisive, and immediately withdrew the other soul tools that he was about to use to continue his suppression of Wang Dong’er. A fiery-red heavy cannon appeared on his shoulder.

This heavy cannon was about two meters long, and its barrel about thirty centimeters in diameter. It began to release a dense and searing aura from the moment it appeared. It was made from Scarletsun Steel, and its formation arrays were sculpted from Scarletflame Crystals. The most important thing about using crystals to create formation arrays was that one couldn’t afford to make a single mistake or miscalculation, and one had to finish everything in one go. Otherwise, there was no way to change anything, as crystals weren’t as malleable as metal.

Shi Xing began to infuse as much soul power as he could into the cannon. This was clearly a Class 6 Scarletflame Cannon, and it was being charged up as high as possible. This charging process was almost complete when Wang Dong’er turned back around and rocketed upwards.

A cruel look flashed across Shi Xing’s eyes. So what if you’re a Soul Emperor? Even Soul Sages won’t dare to meet my Scarletflame Cannon’s attack head-on! I wonder how you’re going to dodge this?!

A miniature metal tube rose discreetly from his left shoulder, and a ruby-red beam fired out and landed directly on Wang Dong'er.

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Is that... a positioning-type soul tool?

Huo Yuhao's eyes became a lot more focused as he sat inside the waiting area. Positioning-type soul tools were typically used for stationary soul tools, as they were more practical, and they were equivalent to the stationary soul tool's sights. It was apparent that the positioning-type soul tool that Shi Xing was using wasn't that simple, and the Class 6 Scarletflame Cannon's barrel shone with red light as soon as the ruby light beam fired out from his positioning-type soul tool.

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It was very taxing for Class 5 soul engineers to operate Class 6 soul tools, and this was still the case even though Shi Xing was nearing his sixth soul ring. Therefore, he couldn't add any more tracking mechanisms to his Class 6 Scarletflame Cannon. However, he did pull a cheap trick to get around this. He used a Class 4 positioning-type soul tool and merged it with his soul cannon, giving his cannon shell a certain ability to track its target. Furthermore, the Scarletflame Cannon itself had certain abilities to lock onto its target. It was clear that he intended to smash everything onto Wang Dong'er without further ado, so that he could end the fight right here and now.

Wang Dong'er could sense the immense pressure coming towards her, and suddenly halted in her upwards flight. She spread out her wings, and looked up calmly at the frightening Scarletflame Cannon that was still charging up above her.

She glowed even more intensely, to the point where her Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings, which were mainly blue, were blanketed with brilliant golden hues!

### [Chapter 291.3: Wang Dongers Fifth Soul Skill](#)

"Go to hell!" Shi Xing roared and fired off the heavy cannon in his hands, and a frightening scarlet-red beam of fire erupted from the Scarletflame Cannon. The flames froze in midair for an instant before they instantly transformed into an enormous fireball that contorted and undulated with wave-like patterns before arriving before Wang Dong'er in an eyeblink.

Every single person in the audience held their breath. The gigantic fireball had swelled to the point where it was almost half again as large as Wang Dong'er's body. Could she take the hit? Was she about to be consumed by the fireball?

Everyone had a very intuitive judgment about beauty. Even though Shi Xing was representing the Sun Moon Empire, Wang Dong'er's "handsomeness" and her good looks gave her quite a number of supporters. Many people subconsciously closed their eyes, as they couldn't bear to see such a handsome youth perish just like that.

Only those who kept their eyes open witnessed something that was nothing short of a miracle. Wang Dong'er had no intention of evading the enormous ball of flame. Instead, she opened her arms, and her entire body seemed to transform into transparent golden water crystals in that moment. Her fifth soul ring lit up at the same time.



The tremendous Scarletflame cannon shell had already arrived. However, Wang Dong'er's body was instantly covered by a golden ripple, and she burst with light that seemed like a reflection from the water crystals that enveloped the cannon shell in front of her. The cannon shell's forward momentum was slowed, and Wang Dong'er actually opened her arms just like that and wrapped them around the huge cannon shell.

Yes, she hugged it. Furthermore, the incredibly unstable and reactive cannon shell didn't explode at all...

"This is..." Even Xu Tianran gasped involuntarily from the rostrum.

Wang Dong'er's eyes had become completely golden by now. There was a tinge of mockery in her eyes as she stared at the young man opposite her. "I'm giving it back to you."

Wang Dong'er raised her hands up into the sky and passed the cannon shell onto her right hand. The cannon shell shone with even more intense light as she raised it high into the air, and the scarlet-red flames were converted into brilliant golden fire. In the next moment, the cannon shell left a blazing and dazzling trail as it hurtled back towards Shi Xing.

Wang Dong'er muttered under her breath as she tossed the enormous cannon shell through the air, "How can you be willing to show me your trump card if I don't give you enough time?"

The golden colors on her body receded as she threw the huge cannon shell away. Her wings opened behind her, and she chased after the cannon shell towards Shi Xing.

Shi Xing was completely rooted to the spot. A million possible outcomes had surfaced in his mind when he fired off his heavy cannon, and the worst possible outcome was that Wang Dong'er had an Invincible Barrier to defend herself against this strike. But even so, he would still have time to continue attacking, and using an Invincible Barrier also consumed soul power. Furthermore, this was equivalent to him erasing one of his opponent's trump cards... but never in his wildest dreams did he expect the attack that he had charged for so long to come back towards him.

The golden cannon shell was whistling through the air towards him, and it wasn't any slower than before. Shi Xing immediately recovered as he slapped himself on the chest while he gritted his teeth. A golden barrier instantly rose from his body and shielded his entire body within.

The person that unleashed an Invincible Barrier wasn't Wang Dong'er, it was him!

Boom!

A frightening explosion echoed through the sky, a golden flower blooming with riveting and bedazzling beauty.

Shi Xing was at the center of this explosion, and he could feel that his soul power was being consumed at an excessively alarming rate. An Invincible Barrier could only be used once, and it began to make crackling noises, as if it couldn't withstand the terrifying explosion.

It took him immense effort before the explosion's aftershocks finally disappeared. However, his soul power had diminished to less than fifty percent because of this, along with the soul tools he had used before this.

What made Shi Xing even more terrified was the fact that Wang Dong'er had completely vanished from his field of view.

"Above you, fool!" Xiao Hongchen raged from the sidelines. It was a pity that Shi Xing couldn't hear him at all from within the competition stage's protective barrier.

An enormous golden hexagram hovered above Shi Xing's head. Just as his eyes were darting around fearfully, a large golden beam descended from the sky and swallowed his entire body.

Shi Xing's Class 5 protective soul barrier that he used to protect his body was immediately triggered, but nobody could see him anymore.

Wang Dong'er dove from high above the sky as she extended her wings, and a golden sphere quickly condensed and took form in front of her.

Clang!

Shi Xing's protective soul barrier was ripped to pieces, and another Invincible Barrier rose from his body. However, Shi Xing had less than thirty percent of his soul power left, and he could do little more than watch as another brilliant golden sphere slammed against his second Invincible Barrier. Sharp and shrill sounds could be heard as uncountable golden sparks erupted into the air.

Shi Xing's soul power rapidly dwindled, and his eyes were full of despair by now. Wang Dong'er was still very close by, and her wings were fully extended as she descended from the sky like the Goddess of Light. He knew that he had been defeated.

"I admit defeat!" Shi Xing shouted as loud as he could. He had learned of the Tang Sect's identity from Xiao Hongchen long before this, and knew both parties were mortal enemies. He didn't want to lose his life here because of any unwarranted stubbornness. Furthermore, there was still a group battle after this, and this wasn't the time for him to give everything he could. He was the first to fight, so all he had to do was use Milk Bottles to recover his soul power, and he would be back in peak condition when it was time for the group battle.

Shi Xing felt as if he had lost this battle way too unconvincingly, and because he didn't know anything about Wang Dong'er's insidious fifth soul skill. He still didn't know exactly what Wang Dong'er's soul skill had done even now.

Wang Dong'er's eyes flowed with mockery when she heard him admit defeat, the judge beneath her already hollering at her to stop.

Wang Dong'er extended her arms to signal that she wasn't attacking anymore. She withdrew her wings and slowly descended to the ground.

The golden sphere that she had released continued rubbing against Shi Xing's Invincible Barrier, but the radiance was getting weaker and weaker. The Butterfly Goddess Slash originally had an area of effect, but she had focused it into a single point, giving it an incredible destructive force.

Shi Xing heaved a sigh of relief as if a huge burden were lifted off his chest. The Invincible Barrier that he was using was the strongest possible type, and he looked on as her attack gradually grew weaker to the point where it could no longer hurt him. His Invincible Barrier was enough to hold on.

Wang Dong'er drifted to the ground and turned towards the judge. She said mockingly, "Don't worry, I'm not attacking him anymore. However, if I had been the one that was at a disadvantage, would you have been so worried?"

The judge shot a cold look at her and said, "Why don't you try and find out?"

Wang Dong'er raised her index finger and wiggled it at him. "You won't get that chance. Can you declare that I have won this fight?"

"Yes. The Tang Sect is victorious in the first single elimination match."

The judge hadn't even finished his sentence when an agonizing howl echoed from the sky, and a body plummeted down in the next moment.

The judge was still a Soul Sage after all, so his reactions were extremely quick. He immediately caught the body falling through the air in a flash of motion.

Shi Xing's face was ghastly pale, and he was exhaling much more than he was inhaling, while his life energy was slipping away at a dangerous rate.

"You... you killed him." The judge turned back towards Wang Dong'er, infuriated.

Wang Dong'er's expression seemed as innocent as ever. "Which eye of yours saw that I killed him? I came down in the same moment that he admitted defeat, and I have been by your side this entire time."

The first match was over, and the protective barriers around the competition stage naturally receded and disappeared. Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen leapt onto stage at almost the same time as they raced over.

They were also astounded when Shi Xing dropped from the sky for some unknown reason. They could clearly see that Wang Dong'er's Butterfly Goddess Slash had disappeared before that. Did Shi Xing burn through every ounce of his soul power?

However, they could immediately tell when they came near that Shi Xing's circumstance wasn't as simple as him exhausting all his soul power. The judge caught him before he hit the ground, and even if he didn't have any soul power left, he would only be exhausted and fatigued. But he wasn't breathing anymore at the moment, and he was as dead as he could be.

Xiao Hongchen roared furiously, "Wang Dong! You dare to kill my teammate?"

Wang Dong'er wore the same innocent expression and replied, "I didn't kill anyone. I have no idea why he's dead. Are you blind?"

Meng Hongchen hesitated and said, "Brother, can it be that Shi Xing has some hidden problems? It's true that Wang Dong didn't do anything to him."

"Bam!" Xiao Hongchen spun around and slapped Meng Hongchen across the face. "Shut up! You've become so disloyal because of your infatuation. You're still defending your opponents even at a time like this. Get lost!"

Meng Hongchen felt her heart skip a beat as she stared at Xiao Hongchen's bloodshot eyes. She felt extremely aggrieved, but she didn't dare to say anything more. Meng Hongchen lifted her head and glanced at Wang Dong'er, before tears welled up in her eyes, and she turned and ran away.

Xiao Hongchen took Shi Xing's body from the judge. He glared at Wang Dong'er and gritted his teeth. "I will not stop until I draw my last breath."

Wang Dong'er smiled faintly and said, "Come, then. Are you up next? Or are you going to keep letting your teammates die?"

Xiao Hongchen took a deep breath, and his outraged expression gradually calmed down. Instead, he said nothing more as he stepped off the stage with Shi Xing's corpse in his arms.

Wang Dong'er took out a Milk Bottle as if she were demonstrating a magic trick, and she stood there quietly to replenish her soul power.

Wang Dong'er had won this battle. She had eliminated her opponent, to the point where he didn't get to give everything that he had. It could be said that she had won this fight absolutely and perfectly.

The Radiant Butterfly Goddess' fifth soul skill – the Goddess of Light's Possession.

Wang Dong'er could transform herself into a light elemental form for three seconds, and this allowed her to develop an affinity for every other element except the darkness element. This soul skill amplified the force of her other soul skills by one hundred percent, and this also allowed her to strike back at darkness elements with three times the original force.

Wang Dong'er relied on the Goddess of Light's Possession's special characteristic of developing an affinity for other elements to control the enormous fire-type Scarletflame Cannon shell. She was then able to throw it back, and thus clinch her victory.

Shi Xing's death obviously had something to do with her. Her Butterfly Goddess Slash was discreetly charged up with the ability that her Broken Devil of Light right arm bone carried, the Devilbreaking Golden Light, which erupted only in the last second and directly pierced into Shi Xing's heart. How could he survive an attack like that?

Wang Dong'er had murdered one of the Sun Moon Empire's main team members, which meant that she had undoubtedly greatly weakened the opposing team's overall strength. This was extremely beneficial for the group battle that was to come afterwards, and towards Shrek Academy's fight against the Sun Moon Empire after today.

### [Chapter 292.1: An Astonishing Rainbow Crossing A Hundred Meters](#)

Xiao Hongchen didn't take the second fight because of Wang Dong'er's words. The next person to fight was a stocky and muscular youth, who looked like a square box when he stepped on stage. His torso very wide, but he was only about a meter and sixty centimeters tall. His thick arms were bigger than some people's thighs, and his short and needle-like hair complemented his intrepid aura, while his eyes seemed like they were burning with flames. His feet made plonking noises on the ground with every step that he took.

"Judge." Wang Dong'er spoke up right at this moment.

“What?” the judge replied with an enraged look on his face. His mood was horrible. Even though he was biased in this competition, one of the Sun Moon Empire’s team members had still lost his life!

Wang Dong’er continued, “Look at the floor – it’s so badly damaged. How can we continue the competition like this? Don’t you think we should fix it up a little before anything else?”

That was true. The three explosive shells that had hammered into the ground had created an enormous crater that was more than fifteen meters across. Metal fragments, stone, and gravel were scattered all over the place, and the competition stage seemed as wretched as it could be.

The judge glanced coldly at her and said, “Is this the outcome you were hoping for when you brought the three explosive shells down to the ground? What a sly little rascal! However, you’re going to be disappointed. I’m the judge for this round, and I have the authority to determine whether the competition stage should be fixed or not. You can fly, right? How will the flooring affect you? The competition is to continue.”

The short and stocky youth had already walked over, and he was getting closer and closer. Wang Dong’er could distinctly hear that his entire skeleton was crackling incessantly.

“Are your bones going to break? Do you want go back and check it out first?” Wang Dong’er said to him with a concerned look on her face.

“Enough nonsense!” the short, stocky youth shouted angrily. “You killed Shi Xing, and I will force you to follow him into the grave!”

Wang Dong’er frowned and said, “What’s your name?”

The stocky youth glared at her and replied, “My name is Zhou Xinghao.”

Wang Dong’er’s large, pretty blue eyes widened as she said, “Is he your boyfriend or your girlfriend? Why are you so angry? You can eat anything, but you can’t just say anything you want. Which eye of yours saw that I killed him? And you still want to slander me?”

“You... bastard!” Zhou Xinghao wasn’t as good with words as Wang Dong’er was, and he darted forward and was about to attack her.

Wang Dong’er just stood there and didn’t move at all. Her eyes were fixed innocently on the judge instead.

The judge wanted to be biased towards the Sun Moon Empire’s team, but he couldn’t allow Zhou Xinghao to violate the rules and attack his opponent before the match had even begun. The judge hurriedly stepped in to block Zhou Xinghao, and he put on a serious look as he said, “The round has yet to begin. I will disqualify you if you violate the rules! Go back to your places and prepare for battle. You can only attack each other once I’ve announced that the competition has begun.”

Zhou Xinghao huffed and puffed as he glared at Wang Dong’er. “I will break you into a million pieces to avenge Shi Xing.” With that, he turned around and strode back to his spot.

Wang Dong’er smiled at the judge. She was currently dressed like a man, but her good looks still stunned the judge momentarily as he returned her gaze.

“You’re an honest and fair judge.” She walked away slowly after her remark.

The judge had recovered by now, and he almost vomited blood. What’s he thinking, calling me an honest and fair judge? This fellow...

Huo Yuhao gave Wang Dong’er a thumbs-up from beneath the stage. Wang Dong’er gave him a smile in return as she put the Milk Bottle in her hands away, and turned around to face Zhou Xinghao.

Huo Yuhao’s mouth moved as he mouthed something to her. Wang Dong’er tilted her head to signal that she understood. With the chemistry that the two of them had, they could even communicate through soundless mouthing.

The judge wasn’t like before, and he waited for both parties to return to their rightful spots before he raised his right arm into air and swung it down forcefully.

Zhou Xinghao didn’t fly into the air like Shi Xing had before. As the judge swung his arm down, he raised both arms into the air. A black ball of light began to light up, and a metal wheel that was more than half a meter in diameter appeared in his hands, which he tossed heavily in front of him.

The metal wheel dropped to the ground with a heavy plonk, and began to rotate vigorously. Ear-splitting clanging sounds could be heard, and the wheel rapidly transformed into a large and wide base.

Zhou Xinghao leapt onto the base, and at least twelve spots on his body shone with the light of storage-type soul tools.

This was the soul tool fortress, a classic opening. However, his soul tool fortress’ base was conspicuously bigger than that of typical forts.

However, it was at this moment that Zhou Xinghao found himself in a daze. His soul tool fortress was just entering its second assembly phase, and it hadn’t been more than two seconds since he took out the wheel to toss onto the ground... but a mass of golden spheres was already crashing toward him!

Two seconds ago, Wang Dong’er had made her move right when the judge swung his hand down. She didn’t even release her martial soul, but her entire body shot into the sky like an arrow as she rocketed towards Zhou Xinghao’s position. A powerful ray of light sparkled as she dashed out, and the blinding white light propelled her forward as she rapidly accelerated to about a hundred meters per second.

The competition stage was only one hundred meters in diameter. This also meant that one second was all it took for Wang Dong’er to reach her opponent.

Wang Dong’er only unleashed her Radiant Butterfly Goddess when she was about ten meters away from Zhou Xinghao. Her dazzling wings extended to both sides, and she made use of that forceful propulsion force as she flapped down with her wings. Air resistance allowed her to soar upwards, and her entire body shot into the sky just like that. She opened her wings, and was facing Zhou Xinghao as her second soul ring lit up, and her Light of the Butterfly Goddess rained down on Zhou Xinghao like a meteor shower.

It wasn’t just people from the Sun Moon Empire that knew how to use soul tools. Wang Dong’er had a Class 6 soul engineer with her, and how could Huo Yuhao not help the woman he loved “suit up”?

This was the force that a Class 6 soul thruster could emit within a short period of time. Wang Dong'er's cultivation and physique was just enough to sustain the pressure from a soul thruster of this class.

The entire process happened way too quickly. The audience could only see a flash across their eyes before two bluish-gold wings stretched out not far from where Zhou Xinghao was, and golden meteors that seemed to eclipse the sun rained down from the sky.

Zhou Xinghao's soul tool fortress was still being assembled, and wasn't operational at all. He had no other choice but to open his Class 5 protective soul barrier at once. He was also a Class 5 soul engineer, and he was a five-ringed Soul King as well. His cultivation was a little weaker than Shi Xing's had been, but he was unnaturally talented, and he also possessed incredible strength. Zhou Xinghao had his own unique mastery of soul tool fortresses, and he could control certain immensely powerful and dense soul tools to assemble his very own fortress. He had a nickname within the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy; he was known as Heavy Cannon.

Zhou Xinghao used his protective soul barrier to defend himself against Wang Dong'er's assault. He gritted his teeth as he pushed his soul tools to assemble as fast as he could.

However, Wang Dong'er didn't continue her onslaught, instead descending from the sky.

She folded her wings and raised them high into the sky, before they transformed into two enormous guillotine-like blades that slashed down from the sky. Her luminous wings seemed to make sparks as they slashed through the air, and dazzling golden flames began to burn.

Zhou Xinghao's protective soul barrier crackled and quivered amidst shrill and sharp sounds. In the next moment, Zhou Xinghao saw the same light sphere that took Shi Xing's life erupt before him... and so, he subconsciously unleashed his own Invincible Barrier.

The Sun Moon Empire hadn't even understood how Shi Xing perished before Zhou Xinghao entered the arena. He didn't want to follow in his good friend's footsteps!

"Stupid." Wang Dong'er muttered with a smile on her face, and her footwork changed as she wrapped around behind him. However, she didn't launch any further attacks.

Zhou Xinghao's soul tool fortress was finally complete amidst a series of metal clanging sounds. At this moment, he seemed like a large metal porcupine, and more than a hundred and fifty cannon barrels of various kinds protruded from his body, while he stood upon the metal base like a giant metal monster... and this was under the circumstance that stationary soul tools weren't allowed! Otherwise, the much bigger stationary soul cannons would make him look even more valiant and fearsome!

Zhou Xinghao gritted his teeth, as he knew that he had been tricked. Everyone on their team had two Invincible Barriers, but soul power was still needed to use one. The user still had to use about one percent of his or her soul power even if their opponent didn't launch another attack, while the most important component that he required for his soul tool fortress was soul power.

Zhou Xinghao activated one soul ring after another generously, and he unleashed all his soul skills that amplified his soul power. At the same time, the soul tool fortress began to spin on its base, and snapped around to track Wang Dong'er. Dozens of soul rays fired off, and swung around as if they intended to slash the entire world into pieces.

However, he still couldn't see Wang Dong'er anywhere even after he completed a three-hundred-and-sixty-degree turn. He looked up at the sky instinctively, but there was nothing in the sky.

"I love to beat fools," Wang Dong'er's voice sounded from behind him.

Zhou Xinghao couldn't see, but the audience could. Wang Dong'er had been behind him this entire time. Soul tool fortresses could only cover about a hundred and eighty degrees around the user, because cannons wouldn't be installed on the user's back, as the body could rotate. Wang Dong'er picked up on this weakness, and she began to use Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track as the soul tool fort was rotating, and followed Zhou Xinghao's rotation. She wasn't too hasty to launch another attack, however.

Zhou Xinghao had his Invincible Barrier and his Class 5 protective soul barrier, so attacking her opponent would be highly inefficient at this moment. However, both of these barriers required soul power to operate.

Cold sweat trickled down Zhou Xinghao's forehead. However, the fact that he could represent the Sun Moon Empire in a tournament like this meant he had some outstanding characteristics. Nobody understood how Shi Xing had died in the previous battle, and he had perished without unleashing his full potential. Zhou Xinghao didn't want to see himself in a similar situation!

The soul tool fortress was like a metal porcupine, and a ball of silver light suddenly rose up from its position behind the nape of his neck and instantly exploded above his head.

#### [Chapter 292.2: An Astonishing Rainbow Crossing A Hundred Meters](#)

She was still staying close to the protective barrier behind the fortress, so she was immediately repelled by an immense force. A look of astonishment flashed across her pretty face as she extended her wings to compensate for the enormous pushing power.

Huo Yuhao frowned below the stage as he muttered to himself, "A shock bomb! Is he not afraid of the force shattering his own heart?"

Shock bombs were a special type of soul tool. Shock bombs were meant for offensive use, and they could produce powerful shockwaves to strike at opponents within a certain range. What Zhou Xinghao did was use a shock bomb to attack both himself and Wang Dong'er at the same time impartially, so that he could push Wang Dong'er away from him. He intended to hurt Wang Dong'er more, but he also hurt himself in the process.

"No, his Invincible Barrier hasn't completely vanished yet." Huo Yuhao immediately recovered after his momentary surprise. Zhou Xinghao used his own Invincible Barrier to withstand the shock bomb's effects, and even though he had to consume soul power in the process, this was better than the shock bomb taking effect on his own body. Furthermore, he finally took the opportunity to spin around.

The several hundred cannon barrels on and around him flared blindingly the moment Wang Dong'er appeared in his field of view. At this point, he was no longer just a porcupine, he had turned into a terrifying metal blender!

All kinds of soul rays and soul cannon shells: explosive shells, incendiary shells, paralysis rays, freezing rays, shock bombs, decomposition shells, rupturing bombs, and various other frightening attacks covered an area of twenty meters around Wang Dong'er.



This metal hurricane that erupted so suddenly seemed to symbolize Zhou Xinghao's emotions. His expression looked savage and ferocious, and his eyes were bloodshot with rage and fury. His eyes were as wide as they could be, and he wanted to watch his metal hurricane tear Wang Dong'er's body to pieces.

They were so close together, and defense wasn't Wang Dong'er's forte, either. This was everything that he had, and it would be extremely difficult for her to escape if she found herself locked in by this all-out assault.

Meng Hongchen covered her mouth beneath the competition stage. Several people from the Tang Sect camp stood up with nervous looks on their faces.

Huo Yuhao had just used his Necromancer's Silent Heart, so his face was still as cold as before. His brain was still calculating at top speed.

Right in the moment that her opponent erupted, Wang Dong'er still felt goosebumps all over her body even though she was prepared. He lived up to the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's name after all, and their soul tools were very formidable.

However, right when that metal hurricane was about to rip her to pieces, she vanished into thin air...

Yes, she disappeared without any warning at all.

Clang!

A powerful force appeared behind his back, and a sharp aura of light forced its way into the soul fort and poured inside. The entire cannon base began to shake with this attack.

"How can it be!? How can this be Instant Shift?" At this moment, Zhou Xinghao was facing his team's waiting area, staring at Xiao Hongchen with a doubtful look in his eyes.

They didn't have to talk about Wang Dong'er's fifth soul skill, the one that she used to defeat Shi Xing. The Instant Shift that she had just used was clearly not something that she released with her soul rings. How could she possess a skill like that?

Xiao Hongchen's eyes froze as well. Who would have thought that Wang Dong'er had a trump card like that in a time as crucial as this?

Wang Dong'er's dazzling bluish-golden wings slashed ferociously at his soul tool fortress. Zhou Xinghao no longer had his Invincible Barrier, and no matter how tough the fort's metal was, it couldn't be compared to a Soul Emperor's attack.

Two deep gashes appeared behind the soul tool fort. Zhou Xinghao spun around hysterically, but Wang Dong'er kept herself close to him and used the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track as she followed his rotation. Her wings resembled two heavy blades as they lashed out again and again.

Metal fragments broke apart and flowed out continuously, and soul tool after mighty soul tool was rapidly being damaged.

Zhou Xinghao wanted to use his remaining Invincible Barrier along with another shock bomb to find yet another opportunity. However, Wang Dong'er's use of her Instant Shift made sure that he couldn't even

muster any self-confidence at all. What difference will it make if I pull the same trick again? She can just use Instant Shift to evade everything...

Zhou Xinghao understood that the key to his defeat was allowing Wang Dong'er to come near him. Her Instant Shift also had a range limit, and his soul tool fortress wasn't suited for an opponent like her at all.

"Enough!" At this moment, a loud shout tore through the air, and a layer of silver light pushed Wang Dong'er away. The judge stood in front of Zhou Xinghao like a hen that was trying to protect her chicks.

"What are you doing?" Wang Dong'er exclaimed angrily with a cold look in her eyes. She was already preparing for a killing blow. The soul tool fortress was already cracked and breaking apart, and Zhou Xinghao was about to perish at her hands at any moment.

The judge lowered his voice and said, "He doesn't have the ability to fight back anymore. I'm the judge, and I rule that the Tang Sect is victorious in this round. I have the authority to stop the competition if one party is no longer able to fight back."

Wang Dong'er gradually calmed down. She grunted dispassionately as she gripped her Milk Bottle and walked back to the center of the arena.

"I haven't lost yet! Go to hell!" Zhou Xinghao roared hysterically, and he arched his body backwards and revealed eight shining silver cannon mouths on his chest. Eight silver rays immediately fired off toward Wang Dong'er with lightning speed in the next moment.

Wang Dong'er had her back to him, and she had not expected that Zhou Xinghao would launch another attack against her when the judge had already ruled this round as her win. Furthermore, the judge did nothing to stop him!

The truth was that this wasn't because the judge was biased towards Zhou Xinghao; he also didn't expect Zhou Xinghao to continue attacking after his ruling. However, he did feel an intense excitement and delight when those eight silver rays flew toward Wang Dong'er.

"Watch out!" Huo Yuhao's icy voice suddenly rang out in Wang Dong'er's mind. Wang Dong'er always trusted Huo Yuhao's words. Furthermore, she could also hear Zhou Xinghao's hysterical voice behind her. She lunged forward towards the ground, and her fifth soul ring lit up once more as intense golden light immediately covered her entire body.

Pop, pop, pop...Even though Wang Dong'er's evasion was quick, the soul rays were travelling at breakneck speed, and three rays still hit her back.

Wang Dong'er grunted from the pain as she stumbled a few steps forward from the force. Even though she had the Goddess of Light's Possession, three holes still appeared on her back, and she felt as if there was some terrifying force that was rapidly causing her body to break apart. If she hadn't used her Goddess of Light's Possession in time to defend herself, the rays would have tunneled right through her body.

"Bastard!" Several people from the Tang Sect leapt onto the competition stage in an instant. However, their movements couldn't compare to how quick another beam of light was.

That light had a radiant golden color, and was tinged with deep purple hues. This beam seemed material, as if it could pierce through even time and space. The competition stage's protective dome had receded the moment the judge declared that Wang Dong'er was victorious in this round, so there was nothing blocking this beam. Right when Wang Dong'er was lunging forward to lie flat on the ground, the purplish-golden light that seemed to tunnel through reality and eternity arrived before Zhou Xinghao.

Zhou Xinghao howled and released his Invincible Barrier once more. He was excited at this moment; the silver rays that he had just used were forceful decomposition rays, and they possessed a special characteristic of breaking apart all kinds of matter. These rays were considered one of the most destructive soul rays. He could imagine Wang Dong'er's body breaking apart, and drawing her last breath from the decomposition.

The moment he saw that purplish-golden light appear, he felt as if his spirit was leaving his body, and he used his second Invincible Barrier that he carried around without any hesitation. He deeply believed that whatever his opponent unleashed couldn't do anything to him with his Invincible Barrier around him, no matter what it was.

However, a sinister scene appeared on the competition stage the moment that purplish-golden light struck Zhou Xinghao's Invincible Barrier.

The people from the Tang Sect, along with the Sun Moon Empire's team who were also rushing onto stage, and everything else that was moving seemed to freeze in that moment, as if time itself seemed to freeze.

A ray of golden light descended from the sky in the next moment and slammed brutally into Zhou Xinghao's Invincible Barrier.

That golden ray disregarded his Invincible Barrier entirely, and it pierced right through it the moment it struck and landed directly onto Zhou Xinghao's body. A golden light projection that resembled a skeleton immediately flickered above Zhou Xinghao's body, and his entire body seemed to freeze and go slack.

The purplish-golden beam drilled right through him, and Zhou Xinghao's Invincible Barrier broke apart in an instant.

Boom!

Zhou Xinghao's body was still inside his broken and tattered soul tool fortress, and he resembled a bursting balloon as his entire frame exploded violently, starting from his head. Flesh and blood flew in all directions in that moment, and his damaged protective soul barrier was also blown into smithereens. Zhou Xinghao transformed into a tornado of flesh and metal that whirled all over the place.

Time returned to normal, and the scene that everyone saw was this horrifying sight.

Astonished gasps resonated through the entire place. Jing Hongchen's face was black as he stood up on the rostrum, and the petrifying atmosphere that resulted from the explosion that had occurred on stage caused even the Sun Moon Empire's team to pause as they dashed onto the stage. Even Xiao Hongchen's footsteps halted momentarily.

Xiao Hongchen's eyes immediately found a person that was sitting down on the other side. That person was Huo Yuhao, who was still sitting in his wheelchair in the waiting area, and hadn't climbed onto the competition stage.

A purplish-golden vertical eye that didn't seem like it had any life at all was gradually closing up on his forehead. Xiao Hongchen felt a little dizzy even though this vertical eye was in the process of closing up.

One hundred meters! This attack was launched from one hundred meters away, and Zhou Xinghao also had his Invincible Barrier to protect him! Despite all that, this strike broke through his Invincible Barrier! What kind of power was required to achieve something like that?

The Sun Moon Empire team was about to go crazy after their temporary astonishment. All kinds of soul tools were unleashed one after another in that instant as soul rings sparkled alternately. A chaotic brawl was about to occur!

### [Chapter 292.3: An Astonishing Rainbow Crossing A Hundred Meters](#)

The Tang Sect team also began to move. Xu Sanshi's face was dark and solemn as he stood at the very front, protecting Wang Dong'er behind him. He Caitou was right next to him, and he unleashed an enormous soul tool fortress just like that from nothing at all. His Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannon's sixteen cannon mouths condensed light, and one large cannon shell after another protruded from the cannon barrels as a terrifying aura permeated the skies. These cannons felt as if they could go off at any moment.

Xiao Xiao, Jiang Nannan, and Na Na were standing beside them, and they released their martial souls at the same time.

"Stop!" A deafening exclamation rang out, and a human figure descended from the sky in the next moment.

This person was an elderly man clad in a long green robe, and he landed right next to the judge. This person raised his hand, and a green light screen rose several hundred meters into the sky. This light screen forcibly separated the two opposing parties, and even the pressure that they released was separated.

Everyone from the Tang Sect camp grew stern, and this was especially true for He Caitou. He was a soul engineer, and he naturally knew what ability the old man before him had just used: that was probably a Class 9 soul tool, and even a Titled Douluo would have trouble breaking through a defensive barrier of that level.

The old man turned around and knocked the judge off stage with one slap, and the judge was dashed to the ground beneath the stage just like that.

"Stop, everyone! Calm yourselves. My name is Zheng Zhan, and I'm this tournament's chief judge. Whoever dares to make another move will be immediately disqualified from the tournament!"

The corner of Xiao Hongchen's mouth twitched. He naturally recognized Zheng Zhan. He was a powerful Class 9 soul engineer, but this man didn't have a good relationship with his grandfather, and was instead an important figure from the empire's Hall of Consecration. This man was as close as one could be to Xiao Hongchen's grandfather in terms of cultivation, even if he didn't actually have the same rank, and

he was especially adept with defensive soul tools. Zheng Zhan was known as the Unbreakable King, and his title was Unbreakable... the Unbreakable Douluo, Zheng Zhan!

Xiao Hongchen raised his hand, and the Sun Moon Empire team reluctantly and grudgingly withdrew their respective soul tools. Their eyes looked like they were spitting fire.

The Tang Sect camp didn't do much, as Jiang Nannan helped Wang Dong'er up and whispered, "How are you feeling, Dong'er?"

Wang Dong'er forced a smile and said, "I'm alright, it's just a little painful."

It would be strange if she didn't feel any pain after being struck by those decomposition rays, and three black spots could be seen on her back. If she didn't have her Goddess of Light's Possession that greatly weakened the force of those Class 6 decomposition rays, she would probably have been heinously injured by now. Even so, she had still consumed more than thirty percent of her soul power before she managed to stabilize her wounds, making sure her bones, ligaments, and her organs weren't damaged. However, she was a top-tier beauty, and skin damage would infuriate her even more than if her bones and her organs were damaged.

"We need an explanation, chief judge Zhang." A cold voice rang out from behind the Tang Sect's people.

Ji Juechen was pushing Huo Yuhao's wheelchair, and Jing Ziyan and Nan Qiuqiu stood guard beside them as they walked onto the competition stage.

The Tang Sect company parted to create a path, so that Huo Yuhao could come all the way out in front. His eyes were so cold at this point that they seemed like they could freeze through everything. Huo Yuhao stared quietly at Zheng Zhan, who was a Titled Douluo and also a Class 9 soul engineer, and his aura seemed to match even Zheng Zhan's.

Zheng Zhan said in a deep voice, "I've seen everything that just happened. This happened because of the judge, and I will immediately relieve him of his duty. I will personally oversee this round until the end."

"That's not what I'm talking about." Huo Yuhao shook his head.

Zheng Zhan focused his eyes. It had been many years since someone dared to speak to him like that. Strangely, he wasn't angry at all as he lowered his voice and said, "Zhou Xinghao attacked Wang Dong after the outcome of this round has been ruled, and he brought his own death upon himself. However, he has already paid for it with his life. This issue is considered resolved. As the chief judge, I will give Wang Dong fifteen minutes to rest before the competition will continue."

Huo Yuhao stared at Zheng Zhan deeply before his eyes turned towards Xiao Hongchen in the distance, but he said nothing. However, his gaze was like a sharp knife. Zheng Zhan thought about the incomprehensible and unfathomable purplish-gold beam that just appeared, and even he felt a little numb from Huo Yuhao's piercing stare.

"Let's go back." Huo Yuhao spoke plainly, and he didn't push the issue any further. They were inside the Sun Moon Empire, and he wouldn't have gotten a better explanation or ruling even if this competition wasn't in the Sun Moon Empire. Everything could only be resolved on stage.

Ji Juechen continued pushing Huo Yuhao's wheelchair as they returned to their waiting area. Huo Yuhao glanced at Wang Dong'er quietly as he passed by, and he reached out and grasped her hand. However, his expression was still as cold as before.

Wang Dong'er glanced back at him discreetly. She thought to herself, "Thankfully, he used that ability that allows him to keep calm and composed. Otherwise, otherwise..." She couldn't even imagine what would have happened.

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Inside the resting lounge, Wang Qiu'er's eyes sparkled as she silently stared at Huo Yuhao. Her eyes seemed to glow with something, and her right hand unwittingly gripped her chair's armrest.

Only she could feel that the beam that was fired from Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny carried a certain crazy sense of exhaustion, and even she felt a little dazed at that moment. She didn't know if she could take an attack like that had she been the target. If Huo Yuhao was a dragon, then Wang Dong'er was his reverse scale!

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Wang Dong'er immediately retrieved her Milk Bottle to replenish her soul power when she returned to the waiting area.

Huo Yuhao grasped her hand tighter, and Haodong power immediately began to circulate through the most important parts of Wang Dong'er's body.

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "The next battle is up to you now, second senior brother."

Wang Dong'er opened her eyes forcefully. "I... I can keep going."

Huo Yuhao shot a cold look at her and said, "Shut up. You were careless before your adversary, and you weren't on guard against an enemy that still had the ability to fight. Won't you be sending yourself to your own death if you go again? I've said this before: there can only be one voice in this team. I'm the leader, and you must listen to my orders."

Wang Dong'er pouted, and tears started welling up in her eyes. Huo Yuhao had never spoken to her with that tone and attitude. That was just so, so annoying!

He Caitou chortled and said, "Don't worry, Dong'er. Let your second senior brother handle this. I will make their heads pop one after another."

Wang Dong'er nodded softly. Even though she was a little displeased with Huo Yuhao's attitude, he was still her man after all, and this wasn't the time for her to throw a tantrum. That would undoubtedly affect the influence and command that her boyfriend had as team leader.

The fifteen minutes of rest were soon over, and Wang Dong'er didn't continue on with the battles. The Sun Moon Empire's next participant that stepped onto the competition stage was a little shocked.

Zheng Zhan had been standing at the stage's center since the moment he arrived. He looked at He Caitou and said, "If you switch, it means that Wang Dong has admitted defeat."

“Yes.” He Caitou walked up to the center of the stage and stared at Zheng Zhan as he nodded in acknowledgement.

Xiao Hongchen almost went insane beneath the competition stage. The person that he had just sent up was meant to counter Wang Dong'er's fighting style, but the Tang Sect switched someone else up! From his perspective, the Tang Sect wanted to conserve strength so that Wang Dong'er could come back in the group battle. Nobody from his side knew much about Wang Dong'er's wounds, but the fact that she was still sitting beside Huo Yuhao meant that her wounds couldn't be that severe.

Cunning! That's just too cunning!

Huo Yuhao's arrangement was intended to break up his opponents' rhythm and momentum anyway, and it wasn't just because he was upset about Wang Dong'er's carelessness before her adversary.

Zheng Zhan lowered his voice and said, “Report your names.”

“He Caitou, Tang Sect.”

“Xiao Ping, Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.”

Zheng Zhan continued, “Return to your places, and prepare for the fight. Both of you must listen to my orders during the contest, and I have the authority to punish you accordingly if either one of you decides to continue attacking after I announce this round's ruling.”

Nobody dared to disregard and underestimate a Class 9 soul engineer's threats. He Caitou and Xiao Ping nodded before they returned to their respective sides.

This was the single elimination round's third match. More accurately put, this was the fourth match, because Wang Dong'er gave one up. The current score was two versus one in favor of the Tang Sect. Furthermore, the Tang Sect had ensured their entry into the group battle because of the two points that they had secured.

He Caitou turned around and stared into the distance as he reached the edge of the competition stage. He took a step forward with his left leg, and he took a stance as if he were going to charge forward.

Xiao Ping's eyes were as sharp and focused as ever on the other side. He was like a cheetah that was winding up.

Zheng Zhan looked at both parties as he raised his right arm high into the air before he swung it down to signal that the match had begun.

Xiao Ping's soul thrusters behind his back glowed the moment Zheng Zhan swung his hand down, and he blasted towards He Caitou just like Wang Dong'er got close to Zhou Xinghao.

Yes, he was a close-combat soul engineer, and Xiao Hongchen had initially meant for him to meet Wang Dong'er head-on.

A long spear appeared in Xiao Ping's hands as he dashed forward. There were two sharp points on his spear, and they began to shine with intense light as he moved forward. Three soul rings lit up one after another, greatly boosting his soul power.

He Caitou was in a sprinting stance, and he also began to move when his opponent did. Of course, he wouldn't use his soul tool fortress and end up at a disadvantage like Zhou Xinghao did.

He Caitou raised his right hand, and a soul cannon immediately appeared on his right arm. A silver sphere was fired and exploded less than twenty meters out, transforming into a silver web that enveloped Xiao Ping flying toward him.

Xiao Ping eyes were overflowing with the desire to draw blood, but he still managed to retain his composure amidst all the bloodlust. A white light erupted from his chest, and his forward-moving body abruptly came to a halt as flourishing soul power undulations rippled from his body. He propelled himself backwards right as armor covered his entire body with a clang.

This tiny forward and backward movement couldn't be disregarded. Xiao Ping had forced himself backwards when he was charging forward at lightning speed, the reactive impact wasn't something that normal people could withstand!

Yet, it was this reverse propulsion force that gave him a chance to avoid that enormous silver web from trapping him at the last moment. The light web closed up, and Xiao Ping was about to charge forward once more when a violent and shocking explosion erupted. Silver-white shockwaves detonated from where the light web had closed, and forced Xiao Ping to pause as he was getting ready to renew his charge. Xiao Ping's body unwillingly stopped for an instant!

#### [Chapter 293.1: The Even-more Terrifying Xiao Hongchen](#)

Zheng Zhan's eyes lit up, and he tilted his head as he muttered under his breath, "This fellow from the Tang Sect is not bad indeed! He's combined a luring net and a shock bomb. This can control, repel, and carries offensive effects all at the same time. This is a very innovative soul tool indeed, and it is meant to buy him enough time for something. If his opponent's reaction is too slow, this soul tool can directly take them down."

He Caitou immediately made his move at the same time that he fired his luring net and shock bomb. He moved in the standard way that soul engineers typically did, and he followed the stage's edge and rapidly shifted along as he lifted a heavy cannon on his shoulder. Large amounts of rupturing shells burst out and blasted towards his opponent, and he activated the flying-type soul tool on his back at the same time, soaring into the sky as he fired off his rupturing shells.

The shock bomb repelled Xiao Ping, and he displayed his own strengths as a wave of rupturing bombs followed immediately after. Soul thrusters shone on his palms, feet, thighs, and behind his back as soul thrusters of many different sizes complemented the flying-type soul tool on his back and brought his body diagonally into the sky. Xiao Ping surged into the air with incredible speed, and raced towards He Caitou as he evaded those rupturing shells. He pointed the spear in his hands forward, and blinding white light erupted from the spear's edged tip right towards He Caitou.

He Caitou had been observing his opponent this entire time. The soul thrusters on Xiao Ping's body were all hidden within and attached to that armor of his, which covered the most important parts of his body. Xiao Ping wasn't wearing full-body armor, but a lighter and more flexible style. He displayed how advantageous this agility was as he soared through the air, and all those soul thrusters allowed him to make some movements that seemed to defy natural laws.



He Caitou shifted three feet horizontally while he was still in the air, and evaded the light beam just like that. The wings behind his back turned down and allowed him to hover in midair. He Caitou switched out the weapon on his shoulder, and a strangely-shaped cannon appeared.

The back of this cannon was conical, but it was rectangular at the front when he placed it on his shoulder, and there were eighteen cannon mouths split into three rows. Dense and intense bluish-purple light began to shine out from it.

In the next moment, lightning that seemed to blanket the entire world poured towards Xiao Ping.

“What soul tool is that?” Even Zheng Zhan was taken aback. He had immersed himself in soul tools for almost a hundred years, but even he couldn’t recognize He Caitou’s soul tool with all the experience that he had. This meant that He Caitou’s soul tool was self-invented!

Every lightning streak that this strange cannon fired was as thick as an arm. The most frightening part was that these lightning streaks detonated once they were fired, and each streak split into even more lightning streaks. Eighteen streaks transformed into a web of lightning bolts in an instant and barreled towards his opponent, who was still charging towards him. This web had a large surface area, and there was no way Xiao Ping could dodge this no matter how agile and nimble he was.

He Caitou had an extremely calm look on his face, and there was some straightforwardness amid all that composure that had always been there. However, there was nothing straightforward about the soul tool in his hands.

Xiao Ping was equally astonished by this soul tool that he had never heard of nor seen before. He kept his spear pointed forwards, and his armor glowed all over as ray after ray of light condensed to form a white barrier that protected his body within.

He Caitou’s pupils contracted. That was a Class 7 protective soul barrier!

Xiao Ping only had five soul rings, and it was evident that he wasn’t strong enough to use something as powerful as a Class 7 protective soul barrier. The only possibility was that this soul tool had special characteristics that allowed him to operate it.

This soul tool probably made use of resonance technology and merged many soul barriers at the same time, which allowed it to erupt with such formidable power. It was the only way Xiao Ping could produce defensive capabilities that matched a Class 7 protective soul barrier, as Class 7 was the rank of a Soul Sage!

Naturally, this was also because Xiao Ping was a close-combat soul engineer. If Xiao Ping had been a traditional soul engineer like He Caitou, he wouldn’t use this resonance soul barrier even if he had it, as it would consume far too much soul power. Attaching something like this to himself meant it would be very difficult to use other soul tools, because resonance technology had to be in tandem with the soul power undulations at every spot on his body. There was no way to switch out to other soul tools.

Xiao Ping released his Class 7 soul barrier and immediately shot forward like an arrow. He didn’t intend to avoid those lightning streaks anymore, charging straight for He Caitou.

Xiao Ping's Class 7 soul barrier had impressive defensive capabilities, indeed! The soul barrier repelled every single lightning streak, and Xiao Ping didn't slow down at all. He was about to arrive before He Caitou at any moment.

He Caitou could already see the murderousness and sinisterly evil expression in Xiao Ping's eyes. Zheng Zhan had already risen into the air from ground, and he prepared himself to end this battle as soon as was needed.

Boom!

A vigorous explosion erupted between He Caitou and Xiao Ping. Xiao Ping still had his Class 7 soul barrier up, but his entire body was sent hurtling through the air like a bullet. His Class 7 soul barrier broke apart from the impact, and if he hadn't unleashed his Invincible Barrier, the crackling lightning streaks in the sky would have torn him to pieces.

He Caitou was still hovering in midair, as if he hadn't moved at all. A cannon barrel with a mouth about the size of a bowl closed gradually near his chest, still flickering with light.

He Caitou switched out the soul cannon on his shoulder once more, and a golden-red cannon that was about as thick as an arm and about three meters long appeared on his shoulder. The cannon's sight swung into place before his eyes, and he locked onto Xiao Ping in the distance. There was a large burning cigar sticking out from the corner of his mouth, releasing wafts of green smoke. The cigar and the green smoke complemented his doughty look, and he appeared as valiant and fearsome as could be.

Xiao Hongchen leapt off his chair in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's camp once this long golden-red cannon appeared.

"A Class 7 stinger cannon! He... how can he have a Class 7 stinger cannon?!"

Stinger cannons were considered the most destructive single-target soul cannons. More accurately put, a stinger cannon should be considered a soul ray, and it was only called a cannon because it was just too forceful. Not many soul engineers used stinger cannons because they required manual aim and consumed a lot of soul power. However, stinger cannons had a very long range, and were typically used to assault fortified positions.

A stinger cannon's greatest weakness was that it couldn't lock onto its target, and it couldn't track its target. However, its power was incredibly frightening. Xiao Ping wouldn't be able to take a hit from this stinger cannon even if he had his Invincible Barrier activated; the best solution against a stinger cannon was to dodge its attack, exploiting the weakness that it couldn't lock onto a target.

But Xiao Ping was hurtling through the air after He Caitou had tossed him away with some unknown method, slamming against the competition stage's protective barrier and bouncing back. Xiao Ping's Invincible Barrier could protect him, but it couldn't help him absorb the impact. Could he react in time to dodge the stinger cannon's attack?

Nobody knew the answer to that question.

Therefore, Zheng Zhan grew hesitant. He knew that stopping He Caitou at this moment would mean that he was declaring He Caitou victorious. However, Xiao Ping would have another chance to get back in the game if he dodged this attack.

Zheng Zhan no longer believed that Xiao Ping had the fighting strength to defeat He Caitou, who had already displayed a Class 7 soul engineer's prowess. However, the Sun Moon Empire's team was already down two to one; how could he let them lose another point just like that?

He Caitou naturally didn't care what the judge was thinking about. He aimed, and he fired, it was that simple for him.

More than half of the cigar in He Caitou's mouth disappeared when he fired his stinger cannon, as smoke and ash billowed in all directions. A golden-red beam as thick as a finger cut across the air straight towards Xiao Ping.

This enormous pressure heralded mortal danger to Xiao Ping. Even though he was still dizzy and concussed from the collision, goosebumps began to break out all over his body, and his hair stood on edge from the sudden pressure, allowing him to recover within the blink of an eye.

Xiao Ping didn't have time to look up to see what was happening, and neither did he have the time to make accurate judgments. He immediately activated his soul thrusters and attempted to fly out diagonally in an attempt to dodge this attack.

However, he felt an intense numbness course over this body at this moment. Xiao Ping looked down subconsciously, and saw a tiny needle protruding from his chest, a needle that shone with bluish-purple light. The overwhelming numbness was coming from this needle!

That's... did he stick that into me before I opened my Invincible Barrier when my Class 7 soul barrier was blasted away?

But that should be considered a stationary soul tool even though it's a needle! This was Xiao Ping's final thought before he watched a golden-red beam swallow that slender needle. The tiny needle was destroyed, and he himself could clearly feel that he had lost something as well.

A hole no bigger than a thumb appeared in Xiao Ping's Invincible Barrier and his heart at the same time. His eyes grew slack and were filled with incredulity. Not in his wildest dreams did he expect to die this way.

A dash of cold light flickered across He Caitou's eyes, but he quickly returned to his simple and honest look as he withdrew the cannon in his hands and gradually descended from the sky.

Zheng Zhan caught Xiao Ping as fast as he could when the latter dropped down from the sky. However, Zheng Zhan quickly discovered that Xiao Ping couldn't be saved, his heart had been shot straight through. How could anybody save him?

"He... he..." Xiao Ping's eyes were full of exasperation. There was nothing else he could say, and he puked out a whole lot of blood before he finally passed into the void.

Two combat deaths from three battles!

The audience erupted into furor when Zheng Zhan announced Xiao Ping's death. They were inside the Sun Moon Empire, and not inside the Star Luo Empire like last season. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's team was representing the Sun Moon Empire in this competition, and three people had perished, one after another, in this round. How could the citizens not be upset?

Huo Yuhao's eyes betrayed a faint look of surprise despite his ice-cold expression beneath the stage, and he glanced at He Caitou on stage.

### [Chapter 293.2: The Even-more Terrifying Xiao Hongchen](#)

He Caitou turned around at this moment, and he nodded calmly at Huo Yuhao before he removed the cigar in his mouth and gave him a smile that seemed to contain a far deeper meaning.

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but reminisce on the scene when He Caitou had confided in him back then. Second senior brother, he...

Zheng Zhan's expression was a little black. He was a Class 9 soul engineer, but he had failed to prevent another death in a match that he had personally refereed, so there was no way he didn't feel bad right now. However, he had been faced with a tough choice just now, and the outcome proved that he made the wrong one.

Xiao Hongchen jumped onto the competition stage with a dark look on his face. "I'm up for the next round."

On the other side, Huo Yuhao also spoke up from the Tang Sect's waiting area. "The Tang Sect will abandon the remaining single elimination rounds. We choose to enter the group battle directly."

Both He Caitou and Xiao Hongchen were taken aback for a moment, and Xiao Hongchen's expression grew even gloomier than before. He Caitou frowned for a moment before he grabbed a Milk Bottle and leapt off the competition stage to show that he was absolutely supportive of Huo Yuhao's decision.

The Tang Sect had already won three matches. There were seven matches of the single elimination round, and the Sun Moon Empire couldn't possibly overtake the Tang Sect by more than five points even if they won the remaining matches. The final result had to be determined through the group battle. However, the Sun Moon Empire had already lost two in combat, and Huo Yuhao had slain another. Three of the original seven were dead. Substitutes weren't allowed in this seven-man round, and this meant that the Sun Moon Empire would be at a great disadvantage in the subsequent group battle. The Tang Sect had an absolute advantage if they chose to go straight into the group battle, as they were seven against four.

Zheng Zhan stared deeply into Huo Yuhao's eyes before he lowered his voice and declared, "The single elimination round is over. Both parties can take some time to rest up, and we will commence the group battle after the break. The Tang Sect has accumulated three points, and the Sun Moon Empire has seven."

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On the rostrum...

Xu Tianran's face became darker and darker, and Jing Hongchen's eyebrows were also tightly knit together.

The Tang Sect's prowess was far stronger than he had imagined. The first two participants were both six-ringed Soul Emperors, and He Caitou had just displayed a Class 7 soul engineer's strength. It was correct

to say that the three members from the Sun Moon Empire were completely suppressed by their opponents, rather than they didn't manage to unleash their full capabilities.

The thing that worried and shocked Jing Hongchen the most was how powerful Huo Yuhao's eruption was. Jing Hongchen was a Titled Douluo, and even he felt a little dizzy and lost the moment that purplish-golden light appeared. He had found himself unable to lock onto and determine the peculiar attack that Huo Yuhao had unleashed. What kind of power was that? Even an Invincible Barrier couldn't stop it! Furthermore, the Tang Sect was in the right during that incident!

The group battle was about to commence. Even though the Sun Moon Empire's reserve team members weren't that much weaker than their main team members, there was a rift. Furthermore, his granddaughter and his grandson were also part of this tournament. It was absolutely impossible for Jing Hongchen not to be worried or anxious.

Xu Tianran asked plainly, "Can they win the group battle?" He placed a lot of emphasis on this year's tournament.

Jing Hongchen took a deep breath and said, "I have faith in those kids. However, I implore that you give me permission to keep those guys from the Tang Sect here forever after the tournament. They will grow up to become real problems in the future if they possess such prowess at such a young age."

Xu Tianran glanced at him and said, "Either you make them submit, or you make them disappear."

Ju Zi was still sitting beside Xu Tianran, and her eyes shifted a little in response.

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He Caitou sat down beside Huo Yuhao, but his expression was no different from before.

Huo Yuhao stared at him and whispered, "Are you alright, second senior brother?"

He Caitou shook his head and said, "I'm good. Hehe, I'm good." He raised his head as he spoke, and he gazed at the rostrum in the distance with a calm look in his eyes, there at the seat that was high above everyone else.

The arena and the audience had settled down, and several earth-type soul masters hurried around as they attempted to repair the competition stage. The group battle was about to start, and even though the competition stage was a hundred meters in diameter and didn't look small at all, it couldn't be considered that spacious if it was to host fourteen people at once. The least that the organizers could do was the repair the stage's surface.

"Dong'er, you will remain by my side later, and you're responsible for protecting me," Huo Yuhao said plainly.

Wang Dong'er was momentarily stunned. Her eyes darted around at the others, but she lowered her head in the end. She forced herself not to rebuff Huo Yuhao and ask if that was being unfair to the others.

Huo Yuhao looked at his other compatriots. "Please follow my guidance from my Spiritual Detection during the group battle after this. We have to win this round, and we can't afford to sustain any losses or injuries at all."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Huo Yuhao closed his eyes once more, but his right hand was still holding onto Wang Dong'er's left hand. Everyone closed their eyes one after another, and they took this opportunity to mentally prepare themselves so that they could maintain their peak condition and go into battle in their best state. The subsequent round was a showdown of life and death to them, and a single misstep could lead to injury, and perhaps even death.

Fortunately, that powerful soul engineer had taken over as judge, so this round would be a lot safer than otherwise.

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There were commotions all around the arena. The citizens and aristocratic families alike were all discussing things amongst themselves.

Those who were more familiar with the competition rules originally expected that the tournament would be a little calmer after the initial elimination phase ended and the tournament progressed into the round robins. After all, the round robin stage didn't directly determine the final winner and loser. The point accumulation was related to whether the teams would get to progress into the next round, but one loss didn't mean that a team would be eliminated right away.

Who would have thought that the round robin stage that they didn't expect to be too intense was so epic, and this was only the first round!

Nobody had ever heard of the Tang Sect before, and they were up against their own country's Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy. The Tang Sect ended up killing three of their own in a row... what exactly was going on?

The audience's hearts were with the Sun Moon Empire's team, but the disgraceful attack against Wang Dong'er earlier made the audience cheer conspicuously quieter than before. That was such a low blow, and was simply too disgraceful. It was also the reason why most of the audience didn't feel bad or pity Zhou Xinghao after his head exploded from Huo Yuhao's formidable strike.

Nobody expected that the Tang Sect would have a landslide victory like that. Those who liked to gamble couldn't help but feel fortunate that their country prohibited gambling. Otherwise, they would probably have lost everything they had in this round.

It was the truth! If the Tang Sect eventually defeated the Sun Moon Empire's team, it would be the greatest upset since the start of this tournament!

Everyone couldn't help but feel a thread of hope for the group battle that was about to commence. They naturally hoped that the Sun Moon Empire would emerge victorious, but the three consecutive losses before this shook their confidence and their faith. The Tang Sect's first two participants were actually two six-ringed Soul Emperors!

For most citizens, Soul Emperors were already considered unassailable and highly respectable people that nobody could reach!

The competition stage's flooring was swiftly repaired. There was no time to re-install the metal boards, but at least that didn't affect the tournament.

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"Step on stage, everyone!" Zheng Zhan announced with a deep voice.

Wang Dong'er was the first to stand up, walking behind Huo Yuhao as she slowly pushed his wheelchair forward. The others didn't overtake them and followed behind, more than enough to prove Huo Yuhao's status as team leader.

On the other side, the Sun Moon Empire's four remaining members got to their feet and jumped on stage one after another. Xiao Hongchen was still wearing that solemn and insidious look, and he walked in front of everyone else as he glared at Huo Yuhao in the distance. Xiao Hongchen's fists were tightly clenched, as if he were about to swallow him up.

This round was seven against four, and those that were truly familiar with the Tang Sect's team members understood that the Tang Sect practically had an absolute advantage over their opponents. Unless some special circumstances cropped up, it was almost impossible for the Sun Moon Empire to turn the tables. This was also the benefit of killing opponents in the single elimination matches, as it wasn't difficult to see how much pressure the team would have to sustain with three fewer people.

Something utterly unexpected happened right at that moment. Xiao Hongchen suddenly raised his hand and said, "Judge, we're admitting defeat for the group battle."

Zheng Zhan was momentarily stunned, and he asked again to be sure. "Are you saying that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy is admitting defeat in the group battle, which also means that you guys have lost this whole round?"

"Yes." Xiao Hongchen was gritting his teeth as he nodded heavily.

Huo Yuhao's eyes sparkled as he sat in his wheelchair. His eyes closed into a squint as he stared back at Xiao Hongchen, and his right hand unwittingly gripped his wheelchair's armrest tightly.

Zheng Zhan paused for a little while as he stared into Xiao Hongchen's eyes. He lowered his voice and said, "Alright, the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy has admitted defeat in the group battle. The Tang Sect is victorious in this round!"

Zheng Zhan was a nine-ringed Titled Douluo, and his voice traveled to every corner of the arena so that every single person in the audience could hear. There was an immediate uproar.

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Back on the rostrum, Xu Tianran was also taken aback. Jing Hongchen thought that Xu Tianran was about to erupt in a fit of rage, but Xu Tianran's face broke into a smile.

"He knows when to bend and when to give or take. Not bad, Hallmaster Hongchen. Your grandson has improved a lot over the years, and he's not so headstrong and all about the fists anymore."

Jing Hongchen lowered his head and forced a laugh. "He's humiliated the empire, your Majesty. Please punish him."

Xu Tianran smiled and said, "The round robin stage has only just begun, and this round is far from over. The final result hasn't been revealed, so nobody can say whether he's disgraced us or not. Furthermore, I'm sure he will learn from this lesson, and he won't repeat the same mistakes in the following rounds. However, the Tang Sect is quite interesting, and they seem quite powerful. Imperial Tutor, what is the ability that Huo Yuhao used before this?"

The Imperial Tutor was sitting on his other side, and he was clad from head to toe in black. He lowered his voice and said, "I believe it was a spiritual-type attack. His martial soul is a pair of eyes, but that third eye should have come about from some mutation, and it's likely similar to the Body Sect's second martial soul awakening. This has allowed him to develop formidable spiritual power. That soul skill is incredibly powerful, and I'm afraid there's nobody at the same rank as him who can withstand that attack. It would require special soul tools or soul skills that are specifically designed to counter that soul skill if one wished to deal with it, and I believe the Hallmaster is quite adept at things like that. I believe that the Hallmaster's grandson opted to withdraw temporarily because he hasn't found a way to deal with that skill, and he wishes to conserve his team's fighting strength so that they can keep on going in the subsequent rounds. There'll always be another chance to take revenge."

### [Chapter 293.3: The Even-more Terrifying Xiao Hongchen](#)

Jing Hongchen nodded. His expression seemed a lot better than before with the Imperial Tutor's affirmation.

The rostrum was calm and cool, but that didn't mean the audience shared the same composure. Retreating without a battle was a cowardly act in their eyes, and the team that represented the empire's dignity actually admitted defeat, just like that! Shouts and curses echoed throughout the arena, and some impulsive citizens would have rushed forward if there hadn't been soldiers standing guard all around.

Xiao Hongchen threw a cold glance in Huo Yuhao's direction after admitting defeat, before jumping down from the competition stage along with his sister and his two remaining companions. Nothing else was said.

Huo Yuhao's eyes closed into slits. "The Sun Moon Empire will be a lot harder to deal with now."

Xu Sanshi frowned and said, "I wanted to take this chance to cripple them for good. I didn't expect them to be so frightened."

Jiang Nannan shook her head and said, "I don't think they're afraid. Look at Xiao Hongchen's eyes... do you see a drop of fear? We would definitely be unable to emerge unscathed even if we met them head-on and beat them in the group battle. We've improved since five years ago, but I'm sure our opponents have improved, as well. Don't forget that the two siblings were already Soul Kings five years ago."

Xiao Xiao chimed in, "The Sun Moon Empire's reserve team can't be that weak. Even though we've won this round, we haven't done much to weaken their overall strength."

"Let's go," Huo Yuhao said.

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Everyone got off the competition stage, and their expressions immediately became a lot more relaxed than before. No matter what, they had still managed to defeat the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy in front of the Sun Moon Empire's crowd. They believed that the Tang Sect's name would resonate through every single household within the Sun Moon Empire. Of course, the other teams would also begin to place a lot more emphasis on them...

"Huo Yuhao." A voice rang out behind them just as they were about to head back to the Brilliant Delight Hotel, and someone blocked their path.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned when he saw this person. "Do you need something, Qiu'er?" Wang Qiu'er, the Shrek Academy team leader, was the one who had stopped them.

Wang Qiu'er lowered her voice and said, "Shrek Academy doesn't need your help. We will defeat them all the same." Of course, she knew why the Tang Sect had decided to go all-out in this round. Her voice sounded tough and cold, but her eyes were filled with unbending will.

Huo Yuhao was still under his own spell, and thus his expression could only be cold as he said plainly, "We didn't mean to help you guys, and we were only helping ourselves. We've won the first round, and good luck to you guys."

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly as she turned around and left. Nobody saw it, but she was biting down on her rosy lips when she turned back, and her eyes were a little blank and vacant. A thought suddenly surfaced in her mind... Did he do all that for me?

The round robin stage continued, but the Tang Sect and the Sun Moon Empire's team both decided to leave immediately.

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Everyone returned to their respective rooms to rest once they were back in the hotel. Huo Yuhao followed Wang Dong'er back to their room.

Huo Yuhao suddenly said, "Take off your clothes."

Wang Dong'er was momentarily stunned, but she quickly recovered and understood that he wanted to see her injuries. But she still pouted and said, "Yuhao, you're not allowed to use that ice-cold spell anymore. I don't like you this way."

The corner of Huo Yuhao's mouth twitched. "Do you think I'll have the ability to direct a battle with you around if I don't use this ability? I didn't say it before this, but the truth is that we might not have won the group battle today. If I'm not wrong, Xiao Hongchen's abilities have broken through into yet another level. I studied his blood circulation and his soul power undulations closely before this, and I believe that my judgment is right."

Wang Dong'er was dumbfounded. "Are you saying that he's already... how is that possible? He's only twenty years old!"

Huo Yuhao answered, "Don't forget that the Illustrious Virtue Hall is excessively wealthy, and they don't lack resources of any kind. It's not impossible to use exotic herbs and medicine to force out a Soul Sage at the age of twenty. Furthermore, the effects that his abilities have against soul tools are incredibly

difficult to deal with. I'm very worried about how Shrek Academy's team will fare against them. They will never give up their combat against the Sun Moon Empire with our performance today, and with Shrek Academy's glory at stake. They will undoubtedly choose to fight until the end, but that's not something that I wish to see."

Wang Dong'er thought for a moment and said, "We've already done what we could. Don't think too much."

Huo Yuhao tilted his head and said, "It'll be very difficult for Shrek Academy to defeat the Sun Moon Empire's team with Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen around. Eh, why haven't you taken off your clothes yet?"

Wang Dong'er blushed. "You... you're staring at me like that, how am I supposed to take them off...?"

Huo Yuhao's eyes were as cold as ever. Wang Dong'er felt as if she were being scrutinized and interrogated by that pair of eyes, and it didn't feel good at all.

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "I'll turn around, then. Lie down on the bed after you've taken off your clothes, and I'll help you inspect your body."

The corner of Wang Dong'er's mouth twitched. "Your words sound very strange. You're not allowed to touch places you're not supposed to."

"Ahem, am I that kind of person?" Huo Yuhao answered calmly.

Wang Dong'er grunted and retorted, "Yes, you are!"

It took five minutes, as Wang Dong'er took her time and reluctantly removed her clothes before she laid face down on the bed, and Huo Yuhao began to inspect the injuries on her back.

The Goddess of Light's Possession's defensive effects were extremely formidable. Even though the decomposition rays didn't have their own element, the Possession withstood the brunt of the attack, and Wang Dong'er merely suffered surface abrasions and scratches. She also wielded the powerful element of light, and this continuously nourished her body and helped her recover.

Huo Yuhao still wasn't assured despite all that. He discreetly poked a hole in his own finger as he inspected her wounds, and he squeezed some blood onto her wounds. The Life Gold that he had ingested contained immense life energy, and even though there was little of it left because he had been continuously assimilating it, he still had ample life energy. Wang Dong'er's recovery naturally accelerated because of his blood.

"Yuhao, the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Competition is happening tomorrow night, right? Lucky for us, it's on a different day from our own tournament." Wang Dong'er was a little panicky and anxious. Even though her relationship with Huo Yuhao had already been settled, this was the first time that she had revealed her naked body before him. Huo Yuhao was just looking at her back, but she was still a virgin young girl, and it was incredibly embarrassing. She tried her best to talk about other things so that she could distract herself.

Huo Yuhao's eyes were already slack at this point. He felt an intense heartache seeing the three wounds on Wang Dong'er's back, but even so, her silky and smooth skin, the tender curves of her body, her thin

and slender waist, and her perky buttocks were so fatally alluring and beautiful. He felt as if her body was inviting him to make a mistake.

No spell could enable Huo Yuhao to keep his cool at a time like this. He took deep and forceful breaths again and again so that he could maintain his composure. It took a lot of effort before his quivering fingers managed to smudge some of his blood onto all three of Wang Dong'er's wounds.

"What are you doing, Yuhao? Why do my wounds feel so itchy?" Wang Dong'er suddenly shifted her body subtly.

Huo Yuhao felt his entire body freeze up. Right when Wang Dong'er was shifting her position, two semicircles that were squeezed out from underneath her chest entered his field of view.

This... the proportion is just so good... even though she can't compare to Xiaotao, she isn't that far off...

"Why aren't you talking, Yuhao?" Wang Dong'er turned around to look at him, and she coincidentally met his eyes that were fixated upon a certain somewhere. She exclaimed in shock and immediately pulled up the blanket to cover her body, and tossed a pillow at him with her other hand.

"What are you looking at, you idiot!"

Huo Yuhao wasn't prepared at all, and the pillow almost knocked him dizzy. However, he still maintained his cool because of the spell and he answered calmly, "I'm staring at the most beautiful things in the world."

Wang Dong'er poked her head out from underneath the blanket and said angrily, "Were they nice to look at?"

Huo Yuhao sounded very serious as he replied, "Yes, they were very nice."

Wang Dong'er grunted indignantly and said, "You're sleeping on the floor today as punishment."

Huo Yuhao's body suddenly trembled, and his face became ghastly pale as his head tilted back diagonally onto his wheelchair. "I've used too much spiritual power. I feel so weak." He closed his eyes as he spoke.

Wang Dong'er was truly startled by his behaviour, and she wrapped the blanket around herself as she sat up. However, she quickly realized that a certain shameless fellow had his eyes closed, but his eyelashes were still quivering faintly.

"You feel weak, huh. Then you can sit on your wheelchair and feel weak all you want. I'm going to take a nap, and you can forget about going for lunch after this. Just stay there and feel exhausted." Wang Dong'er muttered coldly, and she rapidly put on her clothes with the blanket covering her body before she lay down comfortably on the bed.

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes exasperatedly. "I don't want to be like this either, and this is all because of that spell. Yes, it's all because of that. The spell will always make me deal with things in the way that's most beneficial for me. Look like I can't use this spell anymore. You can't blame me, Dong'er. You can't punish me like that."

Wang Dong'er still sounded a little upset. "You're still under that spell, so I will not believe a single word you say. Furthermore, dealing with things is one thing, and your eyes looking at things you're not supposed to is another. If I don't punish you in some way... hmph!"

Huo Yuhao droned on and said, "You've changed, Dong'er. You've always been so gentle and tender in recent days. Why are you like this today? I was just taking a look, it's not a big deal."

Wang Dong'er sat up and stared at Huo Yuhao seriously. "Tell me honestly, Yuhao. Do you like how I am like now, or do you like how gentle and tender I was?"

Huo Yuhao was taken aback. "I don't know. Both seem pretty good. When you're warm, I feel like I'm about to melt. However, I feel a little more familiar with the way you are now. What's wrong, Dong'er? Is there something on your mind? If there is, you should tell me, you should never bottle things up in your heart. Have I made you angry somehow?"

#### [Chapter 294: Awaken! Wang Donger](#)

Wang Dong'er's turned red. "I was afraid that you couldn't take it when I first returned to my female identity, and that you'd still treat me like a brother. I tried my best to be gentle and passive. Afterwards, you gave so much for me, and so I wanted to be better to you. That's the reason why I have always been so gentle, because I've always wanted to be nicer to you. But when I saw Qiu'er today, I suddenly felt that the gentle me isn't really me anymore. If you truly like the way I am when I'm gentle, perhaps you don't like the way that I am as a person. Therefore, I wanted to try becoming myself again. Is that alright?"

Huo Yuhao's eyes grew focused, and an intense pain snaked up from his chest. Yes! I've given so much for Dong'er. But what about her? She has also been giving back to me in silence. She's changed her own personality for me, that's an extremely difficult thing to do! It's no wonder that I'm starting to feel that she's changed over the past days.

"Come here, Dong'er." Huo Yuhao's voice sounded a little stifled.

Wang Dong'er stood up and squatted down beside him.

Huo Yuhao extended his right arm and pulled her into his embrace. "I'm sorry, Dong'er. It's me... I have neglected you, and I have neglected your feelings. You don't have to be so foolish, because you will always be my Dong'er no matter what personality you have. Quick, return to yourself, because what I like the most is a happy you. I will like you if you're happy, no matter what your personality is. How can you change yourself because of me? I won't be happy if you toil so much just to be with me!"

Wang Dong'er opened her arms and hugged Huo Yuhao as tightly as she could. Tears welled up in her eyes as she said, "Yes! It really has been hard for me, especially when you disappeared back then. I thought I was about to lose you, and I didn't dare to be jealous, I didn't dare to overthink, and I didn't dare to be angry at you. I was too afraid of losing you! When you came back to me as if you were already dead, I told myself that I would die with you if you didn't survive. It was so very vexing, and I shouldn't have suspected you of anything, I shouldn't have been jealous in the first place! I tried my best to keep my spirits up and toughen myself up during that time so that I could take care of you with everything I had. I would have died with you if you had died, and if you were to be crippled forever, then I would take care of you for the rest of your life. It was then that I truly saw myself as your woman."

“But over the recent weeks and months, there has always been a shadow in my heart... a shadow that originates from Wang Qiu’er, and it’s there even though I know I’m the only one in your heart. However, I can tell from Wang Qiu’er’s eyes that even though she’s cold to you on the outside, the pain she feels in her heart is the same as mine back then, and it’s likely that she feels more agony than I do... because she really likes you. But I can’t give you to her, because I can’t bear to let you go. This is the reason why I’m so conflicted. I want to do my best to be nice to you, to be gentler to you, so that you can enjoy everything that I am. But the deeper I go, the more guilty I get, to the point that I’m losing my self-confidence. I discovered that I’m not the Wang Dong’er that I used to be, and I feel as if I’ve changed, and that I’ve completely become your appendant.

“I’ve been feeling this way until today, when I finally returned to the competition stage after such a long time. It was only then that I woke up, and I realized that I’m Wang Dong’er, the only one in the world. Why do I need to have such low self-esteem, why do I need to have such low self-confidence? I’m very pretty, and you love me! There’s no reason at all for me to lack self-confidence. I’m Wang Dong’er, and the person that I want you to fall in love with is the real me, and not the person that has become your appendant. Therefore, I wish to become myself again, and I don’t want to be like I used to be. I will do everything I can to lock your heart in forever. Love is selfish, and it can’t be shared! Everything else can be shared, but a lover can’t be shared. No matter how much Wang Qiu’er loves you, I will do everything in my power and everything that I have to protect your love for me! Nobody can take that away from me!”

Wang Dong’er was sobbing uncontrollably at this point. She was still hugging Huo Yuhao as tightly as she could, and she didn’t want to let go for anything else in the world.

Huo Yuhao’s eyes had grown slack by now. The necromancy spell made sure that his mind was still calmly analyzing everything before him, but there was nothing he could do about this state no matter how much agony he felt in his heart.

“It’s all my fault, Dong’er. I’ve overlooked your feelings, and I wasn’t able to realize your circumstances in time. Dong’er, Dong’er...” Even though the spell had given Huo Yuhao calm and composure, he didn’t know what he had to say to console her. However, he could clearly feel that Wang Dong’er’s entire aura and disposition seemed to change as she was cathartically releasing her emotions.

“It’s not your fault, Yuhao. These are all my own problems, and they’ve happened because my mentality has been imbalanced. It’s alright now that I’ve thought it through. You’ve sustained such heinous injuries for me, and the fact that you’re still alive is already a miracle! How can you pay attention to so much when your body is in such a state? Don’t worry! I will adjust myself, and I will be back to normal. All you have to do is understand my feelings, and everything will be alright!”

Huo Yuhao caressed Wang Dong’er’s back, though he was careful not to touch her wounds. Wang Dong’er wiped her tears and sat up straight as she stared into Huo Yuhao’s eyes with her face right in front of his.

“Remember, you can’t use this spell anymore. I don’t like the way you are now. You can sleep on the bed by yourself today.” Wang Dong’er’s eyes were still a little swollen from all that crying as she spoke, but they seemed a little craftier than before.

Huo Yuhao stared at Wang Dong'er with widened eyes and a slack jaw. "Uh... Dong'er, can I still take that back?"

Wang Dong'er shook her head without hesitation and said, "Of course not, it's too late to regret. Alright, hurry up and cultivate. You have to recover as quickly as possible. Otherwise, I will always feel this heartache!" She picked up Huo Yuhao as she spoke and placed him down on the bed before she covered him with the blanket. She sat down by his side and crossed her legs as she started to meditate.

Huo Yuhao watched Wang Dong'er as she closed her eyes. Her long eyelashes were still quivering, and Huo Yuhao knew that there was no way she could calm herself down at a time like this. Dong'er... the truth is that I'm very delighted that you will return to the way that you've always been. It's my fault, because I haven't shown you enough care and concern. You will be the love of my life no matter how you are, as long as you're happy.

Huo Yuhao smiled faintly as he reached out of the blanket with his right arm and gently touched Wang Dong'er's kneecap. He closed his eyes and began to channel his soul power.

Their Haodong power still couldn't be used during cultivation. Huo Yuhao's legs and his left arm's vessels weren't clear and smooth, and it was too easy to accidentally divert the ice-type origin energy of heaven and earth into Wang Dong'er's body. It was too easy to hurt her, and so the Haodong power could only be unleashed on the battlefield when Wang Dong'er was purely supporting him.

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The round robins' first matches concluded successfully. However, nobody could ever forget the first match that was the greatest upset of the entire tournament. The Tang Sect's name swiftly became the talk of the city, and every street and alley within Radiant City was filled with discussions about them. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's reputation had plummeted, to the point where many citizens began to gather and pace around outside the academy's main gate.

Shrek Academy's first opponent wasn't that powerful, and they followed the same style during the elimination rounds and eventually emerged victorious. The round robins had just begun, and every subsequent battle was exceedingly important for every participating team. This was especially true for those teams who were defeated in their first match.

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The second day of the round robins' first round was completed. The sky was getting dark, and everyone had returned to Radiant City. Many people decided not to rest up, and the restaurants, hotels, and bars were filled with people.

People weren't just talking about the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament. They were also talking another tournament that they could also participate in and benefit from: the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament!

The Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament's three participating regions had already produced the name list of those who were progressing into the second round. There were many more things to bet on since the start of the second round.

A competition between soul engineers was different from one between soul masters. A competition between soul engineers wasn't that intense and epic, since everyone was just crafting soul tools under a fair environment. However, it was a lot more uncertain. This was a black-market competition, and many soul engineers who came forth to participate were concerned about their reputation, and faked their own names. Everyone had a nickname that they used in this competition, and the citizens could only see the soul engineers' performances through the information passed down by the three underground organizations.

The Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament's second round was going to start tonight. The most alluring wager was the amount of time needed for the first person to complete this round. This wager was separated into different brackets; the shortest bracket was within one hour, and the next bracket was between one to two hours, then two to three hours, and so on. The longest times didn't have the worst odds. Rather, the middle brackets had the worst odds, and the two extremes had much higher odds.

For example, the odds for betting that the first person would finish the competition within one hour had one-to-five odds. The odds for between one to two hours was one-to-three, and the odds for between five to six hours had the lowest odds at five to six.

The second round had a longer introduction than before. This round would take ten hours, and it would continue from tonight until the following morning. All participating soul engineers from all three underground competitions would have to craft an offensive Class 4 soul tool within ten hours.

Soul engineers who could craft a Class 5 soul tool would pass automatically without any testing. The soul engineers who could create Class 4 soul tools would have an extra segment for a soul tool showdown, in contrast to the previous round.

Every soul engineer would have to take his or her soul tool for test-firing inside a Testing Range, and data would be collected after every shot. The five people with the weakest results would be eliminated, while those who couldn't complete Class 4 soul tools within the stipulated time would also be eliminated.

This round didn't eliminate that many people, but it was becoming a lot more cruel and brutal. Nobody could be sure that his or her soul tool would be stronger or more forceful than someone else's soul tool of the same Class. Under such circumstances, everyone would naturally try his or her best to create a soul tool that was as strong and forceful as possible. Pressure from the subsequent showdown would give these soul engineers a better chance to unleash their true potential.

There were many other forms of betting, and the three underground organizations were relatively adept at understanding the psychology of people. They were able to ensure that almost every single gambler had a bet that he or she was satisfied with.

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Inside the Green Hotel, back inside the simple and unornamented lobby...

Huo Yuhao and company arrived on the scene. This time, Chen An was a lot more low-profile than before after Huo Yuhao had instructed him to be so. He didn't come out to welcome them personally,

instead sending one of his subordinates to meet Huo Yuhao outside before taking them into the guest lounge.

A set of information and data was quickly sent into Huo Yuhao's hands. This data detailed the soul engineers that had qualified from the previous rounds and their performances, and some remarks about them.

The contestants' numbering changed when the tournament entered its main phase. The numbering did mean something in this round: Huo Yuhao's number was 66, while He Caitou's number was 88. These were clearly numbers that Chen An had picked out to make them happy.

Huo Yuhao scanned through the data. The Duskwater Alliance was left with sixty-seven soul engineers who had managed to pass the previous two rounds. A little more than ninety had progressed from the qualifying round, which meant that the main phase's first round had eliminated over thirty people.

Chen An had made special markings for about a dozen contestants among the sixty-seven. Some markings represented skip-overs, while other markings meant they were suspected of hiding their abilities. These numbers were quickly memorized, as it was important for him to know his rivals in order to win. Huo Yuhao had attracted Chen An through his offers of rewards and his threats of punishment, and in addition to his astonishment at the unique technology of Huo Yuhao's sealed Milk Bottle, Chen An was utterly convinced of Huo Yuhao's non-existent identity that he claimed to have.

"Yuhao, I want to watch you compete after this," Wang Dong'er said with a smile on her face.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily startled, but then nodded and said, "Alright, I'll tell Chen An's people to arrange it."

Wang Dong'er stared deeply into his eyes as she bent down to his ear and whispered, "Why are you giving in to me like that?"

Huo Yuhao forced a smile and said, "Am I not helping you recover your personality? You are my queen. The truth is, I'm not sure if this is good or bad for me."

Wang Dong'er rolled her eyes and said, "Since you're so nice to me, tonight..."

Huo Yuhao's eyes lit up, and he was just about to ask her what was happening tonight when the guest room's door opened. A row of people walked in from outside. There were six of them, and the two walking in front were dressed like soul engineers, each having a soul engineer badge on their chests. However, there seemed to be a mist-like layer floating over their badges, so that nobody could tell what Class they were.

The other four people were evidently their bodyguards...

### [Chapter 295.1: Ranked Carving Knife](#)

The two soul engineers who were walking in front seemed cold and tough as they entered the guest lounge. There was a tinge of arrogance in their eyes, and they threw a glance at Huo Yuhao and his companions before they walked over to one side and sat down.

I haven't seen these two before in the tournament. Could they have skipped over the previous two rounds?



Huo Yuhao glanced subconsciously at the name list in his hands. Neither of them were wearing number tags, so he couldn't confirm their identities.

The guest room was quite large. The two soul engineers didn't bother with Huo Yuhao and his companions as they found a spot to sit down, and their four bodyguards positioned themselves behind them.

These two soul engineers immediately attracted Huo Yuhao's attention. He could tell through Spiritual Detection that the bodyguards standing behind them were soul masters, and they didn't seem weak at all. It seems like these two soul engineers are quite important people. They look like they're around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old. Could they be from the Illustrious Virtue Hall?

Huo Yuhao tried his best to search his memory. He and He Caitou had spent quite some time inside the Illustrious Virtue Hall, and he had seen most of their members. Naturally, he had seen quite a few high-level soul engineers. However, these two soul engineers were definitely below thirty years old since they were participating in this tournament, and it wasn't likely that they were high-level soul engineers.

The guest lounge's door opened once more as he was calculating and analyzing things. Chen An walked in briskly, and gave Huo Yuhao a glance before he stepped over to the two soul engineers who had just sat down. Chen An said respectfully, "Greetings, my friends. Many thanks to you for coming forward to participate in the competition. These are your number tags." He handed two number tags to the two soul engineers as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao's eyes were extraordinary, and he could faintly tell that the two number tags read 96 and 98 respectively. These two numbers didn't appear in the data that was given to him, and that meant that these two soul engineers hadn't participated in the previous two rounds. Are they people that the Duskwater Alliance has specifically invited to participate?

"Alright. Let us know when it's time." The soul engineer with the 96 number tag answered plainly before closing his eyes to rest and mentally prepare himself. The soul engineer with the 98 number tag didn't say anything at all.

Chen An greeted them once more before he turned around and walked briskly over to Huo Yuhao's group. He came beside Huo Yuhao and asked respectfully, "Do you have any instructions for me?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "Arrange seats for these two inside the Golden Hall after this. It's alright if they're a little further away, as long as they can see me."

Chen An was momentarily stunned. He glanced between the handsome-looking Wang Dong, and then at the cute-looking Na Na. He thought to himself, He really lives up to his identity as someone from the Holy Ghost Church! This arrangement was strange, and Yuhao actually had one male and one female servant with him. However, he had been utterly convinced after Huo Yuhao revealed the sealed Milk Bottle to him, as the sealed Milk Bottle was the Illustrious Virtue Hall's newest technological breakthrough, and it was also a top-secret affair. The fact that Huo Yuhao could show it meant he was evidently one of the Illustrious Virtue Hall's core members, and Chen An figured that Huo Yuhao was probably someone that the Holy Ghost Church had sent to the Illustrious Virtue Hall for special nurturing.

"Alright, I'll arrange for it at once."

Huo Yuhao's eyes shifted to one side, and he made an inquiring expression. Chen An didn't make a sound, and he mouthed a soundless response, "The Duskwater Alliance has specially invited these two to participate in the competition. I'm not sure where they're from, but my superiors tell me that they're formidable soul engineers."

Huo Yuhao had a look of revelation on his face. It was clear that the Duskwater Alliance had invited these two to deal with the other contestants from the other two underground organizations. If that was the case, they couldn't be that weak.

Chen An didn't dally around. He turned around and left, and it didn't take long before some officials came forward to announce that the competition was about to begin, and that the contestants could enter the arena.

Wang Dong'er began to push Huo Yuhao outside. However, two bodyguards who were guarding the two soul engineers opened their arms and blocked Huo Yuhao's path right at this moment.

"Please wait. Let our masters go first," they muttered coldly at the same time.

Wang Dong'er's eyes widened, and she was about to erupt, but Huo Yuhao smiled and raised his hand as he said, "Alright, let them go first."

One of the two bodyguards grinned mockingly and said, "Good for you, cripple, that you know what's up."

He hadn't even finished his sentence when a golden beam of light sparkled behind Huo Yuhao like a waterfall. The bodyguard hurriedly channeled his soul power and released his martial soul as he raised his hand to block the golden beam.

Boom!

The bodyguard's body was thrown backwards, and his entire body began to burn up in golden flames.

Wang Dong'er was naturally the one who had lashed out. The Fire of Light from her Golden Light Left Arm Bone immediately covered her opponent's entire body. The party with a soul bone when both parties had yet to release their martial souls had an absolute advantage over the other side.

But her attack seemed to have disturbed the hornet's nest, and the two other bodyguards raced forward and gathered with the remaining bodyguard as they all released their martial souls at the same time.

All three bodyguards had the same combination of soul rings, two yellow and three purple ones. They were all Soul Kings, and it was clear that they had gone through proper training. They protected the bodyguard who was burning up in flames as they combined their auras together and started toward Huo Yuhao and his companions.

"Stop!" The soul engineer with the 96 number tag shouted. He wasn't tall or short, and his appearance seemed as typical as could be. However, his eyes were conspicuously cold and gloomy. He walked over with the other soul engineer, and Huo Yuhao watched them in amusement as he sat there in his Golden Tree wheelchair.

“My subordinates are immature and unruly, and I’m deeply sorry that they have offended you. After you.” The soul engineer with the 96 tag squeezed out a smile, and he spoke and gestured at Huo Yuhao courteously.

Huo Yuhao wore a faint smile on his face as well. “That’s alright. I’m quite sorry about all this. Let’s go.” Wang Dong’er surveyed the other three bodyguards coldly, her eyes filled with indifference and contempt. These three were Soul Kings, but they were still nothing much in her eyes. Wang Dong’er was from Shrek Academy, so how could other normal soul masters compare to her? Wang Dong’er’s current cultivation rank was no weaker than Ma Xiaotao’s when Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’er first met her after they entered the academy.

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The soul engineer with 98 came up beside the other soul engineer, and they watched Huo Yuhao and his companions leave the guest lounge. He asked softly, “Big brother, the fellow on the wheelchair seems a little strange.”

96 nodded and said, “His servant seems so gentle and tender, but she possesses such formidable strength. I believe she has six soul rings, at least. Otherwise, she couldn’t have forced him back with a single palm. Her element is light. Are they members of one of the Sun Moon Empire’s large families?”

The golden flames that were still burning on that bodyguard had been extinguished by now. However, his face was extremely pale, and soul power seemed to leak from his body, as if he were fighting against something.

96 walked over to his side and placed one hand on his shoulder. A greyish-white light lit up and swiftly flowed into the bodyguard, and only then did he gradually stop trembling.

“Nobody is to cause any more trouble after this. Don’t forget our task. Let’s go.” The soul engineers departed the guest lounge after that.

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He Caitou pushed Huo Yuhao’s wheelchair after they entered the Golden Hall. Wang Dong’er and Na Na, under Chen An’s special arrangements, were led by some officials along the arena’s edge and into a dark corner. There were no seats there, but they were in a better position to watch everything that was happening on stage. It was apparent that Chen An’s arrangements were quite thoughtful.

Huo Yuhao and He Caitou were given places in a corner once they stepped on stage. Chen An didn’t dare to let Huo Yuhao and He Caitou attract too much attention after what Huo Yuhao said to him the last time!

“Between one to two hours – we’ve placed three hundred thousand golden soul coins. One-to-three odds, heh.” Huo Yuhao whispered to He Caitou.

He Caitou was wearing a metal mask on his face, and Huo Yuhao couldn’t see his expression. But He Caitou nodded in Huo Yuhao’s direction, and the two of them interacted with their eyes for a moment before they transferred their attention to the crafting desk in front of them.

96 and 98 were arranged in the seats that Huo Yuhao and He Caitou were last at. They were wearing long soul engineer robes, but their physical appearances were quite typical, so they wouldn't draw too much attention to themselves.

Chen An's voice quickly rang out across the arena.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to announce that the second round of the competition's main phase is about to begin. Please remain silent so that our mighty soul engineers will have a quiet environment to craft their soul tools. There are still too many people in this round, so some soul engineers have to complete their tasks beneath the competition stage. Therefore, silence is to be maintained throughout the entire process, and anybody who makes a sound will be expelled from the arena. Alright, let me announce this round's rules..."

Huo Yuhao perused the information that the Duskwater Alliance had prepared on stage as he listened to Chen An's announcement.

There were a lot more materials compared to the previous round. There were ten kinds of rare metals, and more than twenty kinds of normal metals. The only problem was that there were no more than two kilograms of each kind, which meant that the soul engineers couldn't craft any large Class 4 soul tools unless they brought their own materials, no matter what they chose to create. Chen An added one more line after he finished his announcement. "In the interest of fairness, every soul engineer can only use the metals provided by the organizing committee for crafting. The finished soul tools will be weighed immediately after completion so that they can ensure that the contestants didn't cheat!"

Huo Yuhao was quite pleased with how the Duskwater Alliance did things. They were an underground organization, but they were still able to maintain fairness in their tournament and their rules.

"Alright. Get ready, all soul engineers. This round begins now, and the countdown has begun! Get into position, referees!"

The timing was closely related to the bets placed, hence it was extremely important. There were more than ten people responsible for the timing, and there were normal citizens, aristocratic members, soul masters, and soul engineers among them, along with people from other professions who were more or less representative. The Duskwater Alliance was doing their best to make sure that nobody could cheat!

#### [Chapter 295.2: Ranked Carving Knife](#)

Huo Yuhao wasn't in a hurry as he picked up a silver-white piece of metal and placed it in his soul tool model. He had already activated his Spiritual Detection, and the two soul engineers with the 96 and 98 number tags were his targets. Huo Yuhao didn't need his eyes to see, and he could still monitor every single movement that they were making.

Huo Yuhao was already astonished even though he had just started observing them.

The two soul engineers were moving very quickly, taking one metal block apiece and getting to work right away.

Experts could always tell with one look. These two soul engineers were familiar, well-trained, and they moved with rhythm and unnatural calm. They seemed extremely composed, and their hands were so stable that it was almost frightening. Every movement was exceedingly accurate and precise, and they

did things just like Huo Yuhao had in the first round that he participated in. They didn't use the tools provided on the crafting desk, each instead retrieving a carving knife each as they began to do their own carving and engraving.

Truly formidable soul engineers didn't really believe in needing tools to help them, they would rather complete everything on their own.

What caught Huo Yuhao's attention were the two carving knives in their hands.

Number 96 was holding a dark red carving knife. The knife didn't seem like it was made from metal because it became thinner closer to the blade's edge. Therefore, this carving knife had a gradient that slowly changed from dark red to fiery-red, to light red, and then down to transparency. The blade was extremely peculiar, and its entire body seemed to be crafted from some kind of jade.

There were patches of cloud patterns on one side of the carving knife, and these cloud patterns seemed to come alive when soul power was injected during the carving and engraving process. This made the carving knife's sharp edges shine faintly with layers of blade light. The glow wasn't intense, and one could only see it upon closer inspection. However, it was because of these lights that the carving knife was especially sharp. The carving knife easily sliced and cut through the tough metal as if it were dicing tofu.

The carving knife that Number 98 drew out wasn't ordinary, either. His knife was dark green in color, and a little bigger than his companion's. There appeared to be rusty marks on its surface, but it didn't look to be made of iron. It seemed very old, even ancient, with dragon-shaped engravings on both sides. One could almost hear a dragon's calls as the carving blade was being used, and every cut and move added a green layer to the metal block's surface before the green hues rapidly disappeared. There seemed to be wind-type undulations contained within.

Ranked carving knives? Huo Yuhao was astonished.

The Carving Knife Leaderboard was the list that soul engineers paid the most attention to, and the list gradually took shape over the years. There were one hundred ranked carving knives, and the list consisted of the most outstanding carving knives on the continent. The list also had an order, but most carving knives were similar in capability and had their own unique characteristics. Huo Yuhao's Soul-Devouring Carving Knife was ranked on that list, though it was ranked towards the bottom because it had a unique trait of lashing back at its owner. Ever since the knife became Huo Yuhao's Life Guardian Blade, he had not brought it out to compete for a spot among the other ranked carving knives.

The ranked carving knives were assessed every ten years, and they would be compared with the previous one hundred carving knives on the Continent that were ranked ten years ago. The winners would be added to the list.

The Carving Knife Leaderboard was extremely authoritative, determined and judged by nine of the most influential and formidable soul engineers. One Class 8 soul engineer from each of the Continent's three native countries were on this committee, while the six others were Class 9 soul engineers from the Sun Moon Empire. It wasn't hard to see how dominant the Sun Moon Empire was in the world of soul engineers, and more than seventy of the current ranked carving knives were located inside the Sun Moon Empire.

It would be foolish to think that one hundred ranked carving knives was already one too many. How many soul engineers were there? Ranked carving knives were priceless treasures to any soul engineer, and it was glorious for any soul engineer to possess one such blade.

The most powerful thing about ranked carving knives was the fact that they had their own unique characteristics, and perhaps even their own sentience, so to speak. This was especially pronounced when creating formation arrays. Ranked carving knives would infuse their own unique attributes into the soul tools that they were used to craft, and these soul tools would possess special capabilities that made them superior to other soul tools of the same class.

Certain ranked carving knives made the crafting process a lot easier because they possessed an extraordinary ability to slice through metal. Some ranked carving knives could add elements to soul tools, and the advantage of using such a carving knife was extremely conspicuous in the circumstance that Huo Yuhao and the others were in now. Of course, the more powerful the ranked carving knife, the more complicated the workmanship required to create it, and the rarer the materials required to craft it. More than thirty percent of the current ranked carving knives were unable to be replicated, while another thirty percent were replicable in theory, but almost impossible to replicate in reality. The formula to craft the remaining forty percent had been lost throughout the generations, and one could tell from all this that a ranked carving knife was extremely valuable.

It was hard to find a ranked carving knife in an auction, even in any of the top-tier auctions on the Continent. Everybody would be fighting for the ranked carving knife if it did appear.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao could already see two ranked carving knives with one glance. He felt a little strange, but he was more annoyed than he was surprised. He really wanted to slap himself across the face, as he only remembered when he saw their ranked carving knives that he had one of his own.

Huo Yuhao had kept his blade concealed even when he was on exchange in the Illustrious Virtue Hall all those years ago. He didn't want people to know he had it, and he wanted to prevent it from being stolen, so he had never used it before. His Life Guardian Blade had been nourished within his Eye of Destiny this entire time, to the point where he had forgotten that it was even there...

Yes, he had forgotten entirely that he possessed a blade as powerful as the Life Guardian Blade. He only remembered that he had it when he saw the two soul engineers' ranked carving knives!

What a tragedy! Huo Yuhao exclaimed grievingly and indignantly inside. However, he didn't retrieve his Life Guardian Blade right away. The Blade had been nourished within his Eye of Destiny this entire time, and he wasn't sure what it had become. Taking it out now would only attract unwanted attention. I guess I'll have to wait until I get back... I'm sorry, my precious darling carving knife!

Huo Yuhao's exasperation and helplessness didn't affect his movements. He began to use the most orderly and traditional methods to craft his Class 4 soul tool, as he didn't want to stand out too much. According to his original plan, He Caitou was the one who had to finish his Class 4 soul tool within one to two hours so that they could win their bet. However, he was immediately rendered speechless as he watched the two men in black who were using ranked carving knives, because he was about to lose his wager... with their speed, they wouldn't even need an hour to complete a Class 4 soul tool!

The truth proved that Huo Yuhao's judgement was accurate. Half an hour passed, and the two soul engineers withdrew their ranked carving knives and submitted their respective soul tools. The countdown was momentarily stopped, and their submission times would be officially counted as long as they passed the test for their soul tools' force afterwards.

"Yuhao!" He Caitou called out softly.

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "Three hundred thousand golden soul coins! Looks like I was careless."

"That's alright. We'll see about that in the next round." He Caitou smiled straightforwardly as he continued crafting the soul tool in his hands. However, his speed was conspicuously slower than before.

In the end, Huo Yuhao and He Caitou submitted their productions along with most of the other soul engineers after about three hours.

The two soul engineers who were the first to submit their soul tools were already long gone. Their soul tools passed the test with flying colors, and were far stronger than the other typical Class 4 soul tools. There was no doubt that they would progress into the next round.

Both Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's Class 4 soul tools were small soul cannons. The force of their soul cannons was just like the time that they took to craft them, average. They qualified, but they weren't outstanding at all.

There were only forty-eight people who remained after this round to participate in the subsequent rounds, and this group included Huo Yuhao and He Caitou, along with Numbers 96 and 98.

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Chen An met up with Huo Yuhao one more time before they departed the Green Hotel. Chen An told him that the tournament would become a lot more competitive in the next round, and soul engineers would have to face off against each other one-versus-one. It would be a little antagonistic, but Chen An wasn't exactly sure what it would be like. Furthermore, he would no longer be the chief judge in the next round, as his superiors would send higher level soul engineers to anchor things down.

Having a inside man like Chen An was extremely beneficial for Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's participation in the competition, and this slightly alleviated the pain of losing three hundred thousand soul coins. Thankfully, he hadn't thrown everything into that bet. He hadn't wanted to attract unwanted attention, but it did seem like a highly rational choice in hindsight.

"Yuhao, are you hiding your abilities again?" Wang Dong'er asked Huo Yuhao as she pushed him in the wheelchair and they departed the Green Hotel.

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly and said, "I don't think so... I feel like a fool now! Three hundred thousand soul coins! That's just painful. I will have to go back and apologize to everyone."

He Caitou chuckled and said, "That's alright. Just earn back what we've lost. If we don't hide our abilities, we can finish our soul tools within an hour too! We would have gotten our money if we placed our bet directly in that bracket, but we just didn't dare to do so. The next round is competitive, right? We'll see about earning back what we've lost during the next round."

Wang Dong'er giggled and said, "Looks like you've gambled before, second senior brother. You seem quite professional with your words."

He Caitou smiled and glanced at Wang Dong'er. "Why do I feel like you're especially lively and happy today? Did something good happen?"

Wang Dong'er was a little taken aback. She smiled sweetly and said, "Of course something good happened! But I'm not going to tell you!..."

He Caitou looked at her, and then at Huo Yuhao. He smiled mysteriously and said, "I know what happened."

Wang Dong'er stared at him in confusion and asked, "What do you know? That's not possible! You will never guess it!"

### [Chapter 295.3: Ranked Carving Knife](#)

He Caitou said, "How is that impossible? The good thing that you're talking about, isn't that the good thing that's happened between you and Huo Yuhao? Are you expecting? We should help you two arrange your marriage as soon as possible when we return from the competition before your tummy gets big. Don't worry, Yuhao. We'll call eldest senior brother when the time comes, and we'll all join you in your proposal."

Wang Dong'er was still a little lost when He Caitou asked if she was expecting. Towards the end, however, she could tell that something was wrong, and when He Caitou finished the rest of his sentence, her face was flushing red.

"What!? Don't talk nonsense! Huo Yuhao and I didn't do that!" She stomped her foot as she spoke, and she gave the wheelchair over to Na Na beside her before she took a few quick steps forward and walked out in front of everyone else.

Huo Yuhao was just laughing throughout the entire conversation, and said nothing at all. Yes! He did feel like Wang Dong'er's liveliness had returned to her, even though that meant she was no longer gentle and soft. It also meant that she was probably a little more quirky and erratic, so it would be a little more difficult to flirt with her. However, Huo Yuhao was especially delighted to see her so happy.

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Huo Yuhao used Imitation to bring everyone back into the hotel and closed the door to his room. He asked Wang Dong'er to push him over in front of his desk and draw the curtains.

"It's getting late. Let's get some rest." The tournament had taken them almost four hours, and it was already very late. The next match of the round robin was tomorrow, and they didn't have much time to rest. Huo Yuhao said, "Go and rest, Dong'er. There are some things that I need to handle." He was a little too eager at this point.

"What do you want to do? Let me accompany you." Wang Dong'er pulled a chair over, sat down beside him, and stared at him with a curious look. She had been together with Huo Yuhao for far too long, and she could tell from Huo Yuhao's expression that he was extremely excited. He had just lost three hundred thousand golden soul coins, so it must be something big.



Huo Yuhao didn't keep urging her to rest. He gradually closed his eyes, and a pale golden layer shone from his skin.

Gentle spiritual undulations permeated the room with a strange aura. Wang Dong'er smiled faintly as she watched Huo Yuhao with his eyes closed.

Huo Yuhao was still a Soul King, but no matter how much Wang Dong'er understood about him, she didn't know how powerful he was now. He'd probably become a true high-level soul master once his body recovered and he was able to move. His spiritual power was just too strong.

The Fullmoon Piercing Autumn Dew greatly boosted Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, and had allowed him to ascend into the concrete-immaterial realm. This was his also his true hidden weapon in the big tournament.

The soft spiritual undulations continued to ripple as a faint golden crack slowly appeared on Huo Yuhao's forehead. The crack slowly opened up, and a strange vertical eye gradually appeared.

Wang Dong'er was a six-ringed Soul Emperor, but she still felt her entire body quiver and a dizziness surface in her mind when the Eye of Destiny opened up. She didn't feel balanced on her chair anymore, and had to hurriedly support herself by gripping the table. She focused her attention, calmed herself down, and withdrew her spiritual power so that she wouldn't be affected.

What kind of eye is that?! The brilliant golden eye was transparent like a golden crystal, but its pupil was a deep and elegant purple color. Strange but intense spiritual undulations flowed out, and the entire room was quickly filled with an aura of formidable spiritual power.

A bluish-green light suddenly erupted from the golden eye. The light rays in front of the golden eye became a little twisted when this bluish-green light appeared, as if it were opening a door into another world.

Bluish-green light flickered, and a carving knife was hovering in front of Huo Yuhao.

"It's beautiful!" Wang Dong'er couldn't help but whisper.

Huo Yuhao's eyes opened. The Eye of Destiny on his forehead shone with faint golden light, and his eyes were fixed upon his Life Guardian Blade.

Yes! It really was, it really was quite beautiful!

The Life Guardian Blade had undergone drastic changes over the many years that it had been nourished, and it now looked like a translucent emerald. It wasn't just transparent, like a crystal; its colors were dense, positive, and even. The green hues were full of life energy, and the entire blade was just riveting.

There were no patterns of any sort on the Life Guardian Blade. It was so pure that it seemed like it had been naturally formed, and not man-made. The fearsome and ferocious aura that had once belonged to his Soul-Devouring Carving Knife was entirely gone. While rippling with flourishing life energy, the blade also possessed peculiar spiritual undulations.

Huo Yuhao raised his hand and carefully pinched the Life Guardian Blade with his thumb and his index finger.

A layer of green light immediately shone from within it and stained the entire room a jade-green color. Dense life energy flowed backwards and followed Huo Yuhao's right arm into his body.

It was just a small carving knife, but the life energy that it fed back to Huo Yuhao was continuous, and flowed endlessly like a river. He felt as if his life energy was expanding with breakneck speed. Furthermore, this powerful life energy was automatically fighting against the ice-type origin energy in his left arm and his lower limbs, as if it were melting ice into water.

Huo Yuhao's entire body was filled with energy and vitality, to the point where he almost moaned out loud.

He subconsciously infused his soul power into the carving knife, and a strange sensation surfaced. A blurry green light lit up at the carving knife's tip, and a foot-long blade light protruded from it.

This blade light was slender and shaped like a trapezoid, wide at the start and narrow at the back. Simply put, the carving knife seemed to have expanded.

Huo Yuhao was holding the carving knife diagonally. The blade light appeared and naturally stabbed into the desk before him.

A strange scene appeared – the table's entire structure was immediately imprinted in Huo Yuhao's mind. Afterwards, Huo Yuhao could feel that the table had been... annihilated.

Yes, annihilated.

Wang Dong'er and Huo Yuhao looked on in shock as the wooden table was soundlessly converted into ash and dust. The table slowly crumbled in front of their eyes into dust that drifted down to the floor. The Life Guardian Blade only flickered once with green light.

Wang Dong'er raised her hand, and dense light-type soul power swept out. Her soul power swept up the ash and dust, and she opened the window so that she could throw it outside. Huo Yuhao controlled his Life Guardian Blade and withdrew the blade light, which also put a stop to the enchanting bluish-green light.

Wang Dong'er cleaned up the mess, and turned around and gazed into Huo Yuhao's eyes.

"This... what just happened?"

Huo Yuhao mumbled, "This is called the Life Guardian Blade. Have you heard about ranked carving knives?" He immediately briefed Wang Dong'er about the Life Guardian Blade's identity. Of course, he skipped some things that were related to Electrolux.

"It's been nourished inside my Eye of Destiny for such a long time that I'd forgotten all about it. I really deserve a beating for that. I never expected that it would come to possess so much life energy over the years. With this blade around, I can feel that my life energy can be permanently maintained at a flourishing level, and even the speed at which my body can absorb the ice-type origin energy has become a lot faster."

Wang Dong'er's eyes sparkled. "That's a good thing even if it could only help you recover more quickly. But what's the deal with the table?"

Huo Yuhao thought back to something Electrolux once said. "The Life Guardian Blade was forged from Life Gold. If the blade has an element, then its element is life. It can manipulate life energy, and this ability is known as Adjudication. It can adjudicate the life energy in all matter. This doesn't include living matter, and can only take effect against metal and all other sorts of non-living matter. This blade can absorb life energy from these non-living things to boost itself, and it can also cause those things to crumble just from absorbing its life energy. Of course, that also means it can give other metals its own life energy. I believe that if the committee redid the Carving Knife Leaderboard, the Life Guardian Blade would rank among the top ten."

Wang Dong'er asked, "What do you intend to use it for? For that competition? You'll pay a price for possessing something like this. Won't you attract a lot of unwanted attention if you have a precious carving knife as glaring and riveting as this?"

Huo Yuhao smiled, and he proved to Wang Dong'er how powerful he was with his abilities.

The Eye of Destiny's light contorted a little, and the bluish-green and transparent carving knife in Huo Yuhao's hands transformed once more, becoming a black carving knife that looked as normal as normal could be.

"Uh... Imitation? Can you change everything with Imitation?" Wang Dong'er stared at him with wide eyes and a slack jaw .

Huo Yuhao nodded gently and said, "What you see now is just the tip of the iceberg. Do you remember? I said I have a hidden weapon, and it's not this carving knife. It's a soul skill combination that I've invented all by myself. You will see it when we meet an opponent that's powerful enough."

"Alright."

"Help me onto the bed. I want to try using the Life Guardian Blade to support my cultivation and see if it can help me accelerate the absorption of the Ultimate Ice origin energy of heaven and earth inside me. I have a feeling that full recovery is waving to me now." Huo Yuhao's eyes flowed with self-confidence. He had this powerful life energy to protect him now, and this allowed him to do what he wanted as he absorbed the ice-type origin energy.

"That's great!" Wang Dong'er said delightedly.

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The next morning...

The sky around Radiant City was a little dark, and the clouds were hanging low. There seemed to be a heavy and gloomy atmosphere in the air as light drizzles billowed in the sky. The rain carried waves of a crisp chill.

Wang Dong'er pushed Huo Yuhao's wheelchair as they exited the Brilliant Delight Hotel. Na Na held up a large umbrella for her and Huo Yuhao, and everyone proceeded towards the competition grounds. The second match of the round robin was about to begin!

The Tang Sect was facing off against a sect called the Clearjade Sect. According to the information that they had, this sect was very special, and they were quite powerful as well!

## [Chapter 296.1: The Clearjade Sect](#)

The Clearjade Sect was as mysterious as the Tang Sect. Since the start of the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament, their progression through the elimination phase and the round robins' first match could be considered smooth-sailing. Hardly any of their team members were hurt, and their team leader wore a conical bamboo hat with a veil that draped low over their face. The team leader had not fought yet, and had just been commanding and directing the battle from their waiting area. The Clearjade Sect only put six people on stage, even during the group battles.

If not for the fact that their fighting style was very different from normal soul masters, Huo Yuhao would have suspected that they were part of the Body Sect, who had planted themselves within the tournament.

The Clearjade Sect consisted of soul engineers, and so were naturally all from the Sun Moon Empire. They were based inside Radiant City, and were a highly reputable group.

The Clearjade Sect's disciples shared the same path, as close-combat soul engineers. They utilized close-combat soul tools to boost their own strength, and even some of the Sun Moon Empire's representative team members couldn't catch up to these guys in terms of close-combat techniques. However, the Clearjade Sect couldn't compare to the Sun Moon Empire's team with regards to soul tools, as the Sun Moon Empire's team had the Illustrious Virtue Hall behind them.

The Tang Sect versus the Clearjade Sect. This was going to be another epic match to watch!

The spectator's grandstand beneath the competition was packed with people early in the morning due to the Tang Sect's dominant performance in the previous round. The spectators were already discussing the match among themselves. The Tang Sect was the tournament's darkest horse at the moment, so they naturally became the main talking point.

They entered the guest lounge, and the pergola blocked off the light drizzle drifting down from the sky. The lounge was equipped with several soul tools that acted as heaters, and warm air wafted towards them once they walked in. The atmosphere was moderately warm and quite comfortable.

The warmth didn't last long, however, and the Tang Sect's team members began to feel waves of chilliness coming from one side.

The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's team, with Xiao Hongchen at the helm, were staring at them. Their eyes were like icy blades, as if they wanted to cut the Tang Sect's team open.

Xu Sanshi shifted his mouth disdainfully, and he reached out with both hands and pointed his middle fingers.

Xiao Hongchen's eyes closed into slits, and his right hand made a slicing movement across his neck.

"Losers," Xu Sanshi grunted contemptuously. He didn't look at them anymore and sat down with the rest of his team members.

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The Tang Sect's match was the first one of the day, since they won their last one. The Sun Moon Empire's team was pushed into the second segment.

The Shrek Academy team had also arrived. Wang Qiu'er was still the one leading the pack, but their eldest senior sister, Zhang Lexuan, was nowhere to be seen. Nobody knew where she had disappeared to.

"Dong'er will take the first bout," Huo Yuhao said with a faint smile on his face.

Everyone looked at him in surprise. Huo Yuhao smiled again and said, "Afterwards, Xiao Xiao will take the next bout. We will fight with our female generals today, and everyone will take two bouts if you can defeat your first opponent. We will request to enter the group battle directly afterwards. We haven't been fighting enough group battles since the start of the tournament, and our opponents will only get stronger and stronger. We'll take this opportunity to practice."

Everyone couldn't help but laugh and smile as they listened to Huo Yuhao's words. It was clear that Huo Yuhao didn't think anything of the Clearjade Sect at all, and he treated them as target practice. His self-confidence came from his abilities. Even though Bei Bei wasn't there with them, they had still managed to force the Sun Moon Empire's team to admit defeat in the previous round. That outcome boosted everyone's confidence. Everyone came from Shrek Academy, and every single one of them were among the best soul masters of their respective ranks. It was within their rights to have such confidence.

The Clearjade Sect's team members arrived at the guest lounge about that time. A man clad in a long robe and a conical bamboo hat on his head took point. Or rather, it was difficult to tell whether he was male or female. His clothes were wide and oversized, and big enough to cover his frame. This person looked extremely mysterious.

Roughly a dozen people followed closely behind him. The main team members were positioned towards the front, while the reserve team members trailed at the back.

The Clearjade Sect's team uniform was pale yellow in color. It was very eye-catching.

The person walking in front of the Clearjade Sect's company paused for a moment and turned towards Huo Yuhao. Perhaps he could feel the Tang Sect watching them. An eerie and chilly aura rippled towards Huo Yuhao without any warning. The intimidating pressure was filled with a razor-sharp aura, and even the air seemed to tear and crackle faintly, as if it were being torn apart.

A tall figure stood up in front of Huo Yuhao without waiting for him to react. This person was just standing there, but there was a feeling that he was about to split heaven and earth in half. This person's eyes focused and immediately dispelled the sharp aura that emanated from the Clearjade Sect's team leader. Sword intent surged through the air, and the entire guest lounge was immediately charged with hostility and murderous intent.

There was no question that the Sword Maniac, Ji Juechen, was the person that stood in front of Huo Yuhao.

They had been here for a long time, but both Jing Ziyang and he hadn't found anyone else besides Nan Qiuqiu to spar with. They were part of the Tang Sect after all, so they had to try their best to avoid causing trouble for them.

But somebody was trying to provoke them beneath the competition stage. Ji Juechen couldn't hold himself back anymore, and the sword intent that had been suppressed for a long time erupted like a geyser.

A peculiar scene appeared inside the guest lounge: almost all the soul masters inside the guest lounge released their martial souls to fight back against Ji Juechen's sword intent.

Sword intent continued to surge relentlessly around the room, and everyone felt as if they were about to be struck by this sword maniac in the next moment!

"Brother Ji." Huo Yuhao gently reminded him exasperatedly.

"Ji Juechen?!" A deafening shout rang out. Did this voice not belong to Xiao Hongchen?

Ji Juechen, Jing Ziyan and the others had been following the Tang Sect before this, but Xiao Hongchen and his sister had been too focused on Huo Yuhao and the others this whole time. Furthermore, they weren't that familiar with Ji Juechen and Jing Ziyan. Xiao Hongchen finally recognized him after Ji Juechen unleashed his signature intimidating sword intent.

"Ji Juechen! You've deserted us and joined the Tang Sect?" Xiao Hongchun howled as he gritted his teeth.

Ji Juechen frowned, but said nothing. Jing Ziyan couldn't take it anymore, and retorted, "You call that deserting? Can you not make it sound so horrible? We joined a sect after we left the academy. Are you saying that we were sold to the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy?"

"You..."

"What's happening? Withdraw your martial souls. Do you want me to disqualify the lot of you?" A bright voice broke the tension, and the same person that had acted as judge for the match between the Sun Moon Empire's team and the Tang Sect that day appeared: the Class 9 soul engineer, the Unbreakable Douluo! A powerful aura flowed from his body and forcefully suppressed all the tension and disturbance in the guest lounge.

Teachers typically didn't enter the tournament's guest lounge. Therefore, everyone here was a contestant. Everyone became a lot calmer once the formidable Titled Douluo appeared.

Everyone withdrew their martial souls. Ji Juechen just glanced coldly at Xiao Hongchen before he sat down with Jing Ziyan.

Xiao Hongchen's face was frighteningly dark and gloomy. His eyes were closed into slits, and nobody knew what he was thinking about. His black face was enough to portray the extreme rage and fury that he was feeling right now.

The Clearjade Sect's team leader sat down as well, as if nothing had happened at all. He appeared incredibly calm and composed.

Zheng Zhan surveyed the guest lounge authoritatively before leaving. He stepped on the competition stage directly; he was the judge today again!

Huo Yuhao frowned faintly. Is this Titled Douluo, this Class 9 soul engineer, targeting the Tang Sect? It's him again! But he does seem quite fair...

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Time was up, and Zheng Zhan's bright and crisp voice travelled to every corner of the arena. "The second match of the round robin... the Tang Sect versus the Clearjade Sect! Contestants, please enter your waiting areas and prepare for battle. The single elimination round's first contestant can step onto the stage directly."

Everyone from the Tang Sect stood up one after another. Wang Dong'er pushed Huo Yuhao, and everyone walked towards their waiting areas.

Seven people from the Clearjade Sect stood up. Six people surrounded their mysterious team leader as they proceeded towards their waiting area on the other side. The atmosphere immediately became tense and antagonistic once they left the guest lounge.

Wang Dong'er opened her umbrella and sheltered herself and Huo Yuhao against the light drizzle. Huo Yuhao turned his head around and glanced in the Clearjade Sect's direction. The Clearjade Sect's team leader seemed to be watching him as well, but their gazes couldn't meet directly due to the veil hanging from his conical bamboo hat. However, Huo Yuhao felt something in his heart.

Both parties quickly entered their respective waiting areas. There were no archways to shelter them against the rain in the waiting areas, so everyone could only use their umbrellas. Wang Dong'er passed the umbrella to Na Na before tapping on the ground with her foot and drifting gently onto the competition stage.

The audience in the distance erupted into a cacophony when she leapt onto the stage. Everyone shouted different things, but they were all jeering her. It was clear that this powerful contestant from the Tang Sect, that had defeated two of the Sun Moon Empire's team members, wasn't welcome at all. Even though Wang Dong was still as handsome as ever when dressed like a guy, this still wasn't enough to offset the contempt the audience felt in their hearts.

The first contestant from the Clearjade Sect was a short and fierce-looking youth. He wasn't fat or skinny, but he was only about a meter and sixty centimeters tall. His movements were extremely agile, but he seemed a little indecent.

Both contestants quickly stood at the center of the competition stage, which had been repaired earlier, and faced each other.

Zheng Zhan glanced between them both. He wasn't like other judges, and it felt as if he was trying to remember the tournament's contestants. He lowered his voice and said, "Report your names."

"Wang Dong of the Tang Sect."

"You Chen of the Clearjade Sect."

Zheng Zhan nodded and said, "I'm sure you guys are clear about the tournament rules, so I won't repeat them again. But remember, this is just a competition, and it's not a fight to the death. Both of you have

been raised by your parents, and you only get to live once. Whoever is out to kill his or her adversary cannot blame me for disqualifying you from the tournament. Do you understand?"

### [Chapter 296.2: The Clearjade Sect](#)

"Understood." Wang Dong'er and You Chen acknowledged at once.

Wang Dong'er had been observing her opponent ever since he stepped on stage. She could clearly feel the hostility in her opponent's eyes, and there was no question that this hostility stemmed from the previous round's result. The Clearjade Sect came from Radiant City after all, and must be friendly towards the Sun Moon Empire's team.

But so what?

Wang Dong'er lifted her chin slightly. She was taller than You Chen, and so it seemed like she was looking down on him.

You Chen shot a cold look at her. He turned around immediately and walked toward the stage's other edge.

Wang Dong'er turned around and proceeded to her own side. They widened their stride and arrived at their respective corners while they prepared for battle.

Zheng Zhan raised his right hand high into the air. Once he could see that both parties were ready and in place, he swung his arm down forcefully and shouted, "Begin!"

Both of them began to move once his arm went down. Wang Dong'er tapped on the ground with her foot, and she seemed as light as ever as she charged forward. Her Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings extended behind her back, while her soul rings sparkled dazzlingly at the same time. Pale golden light immediately covered her entire body.

Wang Dong'er was a lot more careful today after the painful lesson that she had learned from the previous round. She would never give her opponent the chance to ambush her, no matter what.

You Chen raised his arms from his sides, and two beams of light flashed by before a spike-like weapon appeared in each of his hands. Two yellow and three purple soul rings rose from his body at the same time.

The Clearjade Sect consisted of soul engineers, so Wang Dong'er wouldn't underestimate her opponent because of his non-optimal soul ring combination.

You Chen's body and soul rings suddenly looked a little virtual. He left a trail of afterimages in his wake as he darted forward, and he covered several tens of meters with one step.

What incredible speed! Surprisingly, he wasn't a soul engineer that focused on boosting soul power – he was an agility-type soul master.

Wang Dong'er had ample fighting experience. She was taken by surprise, but that didn't slow her reactions at all. She tapped her left leg on the ground, and she spun in a circle as if she were about to dance. Her wings transformed into two huge blades and sliced towards the spikes in her opponent's hands, which were clearly soul weapons.



“Ding, ding!” Two bright, crisp sounds could be heard. Two yellow circles rippled through the air, and Wang Dong’er accelerated in the next moment as her footwork became incredibly complex and mystical as she sidestepped You Chen’s attack.

Those with better vision realized that Wang Dong’er’s wings had two small holes in them. She moved fast and tried her best to mask this fact, but it was clear that she was the one at a disadvantage in this collision.

“Powerful offensive capability. These spikes should make up his entire arsenal of soul tools. This is the mark of a true agility-type soul engineer.” Zheng Zhan nodded lightly as he thought to himself. He was quite in awe towards this contestant from the Clearjade Sect, who was developing down a very focused and singular path. Soul masters who wanted to become something had to display their greatest strengths in their entirety; this was the only way to stand out from the rest, the only way to become stronger.

Wang Dong’er was also a little astonished. Her wings were tough, and in addition to her quick reactions, enabled her to push away those spikes in the nick of time. Otherwise, her opponent’s spikes would probably have stabbed right into her body.

Wang Dong’er had been defeated in battle before, but this was the first time that her martial soul had been damaged. Martial souls were part of a soul master’s body, and it didn’t matter whether soul masters had beast souls or tool souls. Injuries to a soul master’s martial soul would undoubtedly affect the soul master’s own body. At this moment, the soul power within Wang Dong’er’s body became a little messy and disorganized.

Wang Dong’er was full of admiration inside. It was just as Huo Yuhao had said: every single team that could progress into the round robins wasn’t simple at all.

But this was the only thought that ran through her mind. You Chen was just too fast – his third soul ring lit up when Wang Dong’er sidestepped his attack, and his body seemed to split apart in the next moment as the afterimages that appeared from his incredible speed suddenly became material. His figure split apart into seven identical clones that surrounded Wang Dong’er at the same time. Everything happened way too quickly, and Wang Dong’er had no chance to dodge even if she wanted to. She was surrounded and trapped just like that.

But Wang Dong’er was a Soul Emperor, and she was a Soul Emperor from Shrek Academy. She wouldn’t be amongst the academy’s next-generation elites if she was stumped by her opponent’s speed.

Wang Dong’er’s fourth soul ring sparkled when her opponent and his shadows began to surround her. A beautiful yellow halo appeared on the ground with her body in its center. Wang Dong’er didn’t move at all as her opponent and his shadows closed in on her, and she just closed her eyes, as if she were using her ears to listen intently to something. She placed her hands together in front of her chest at the same time, and a sphere of light began to condense.

The seven images arched inwards before they bounced out like lightning bolts. You Chen’s reactions were quick, indeed. Right when his seven images bolted out, a gigantic pillar of light that was over two meters tall rose into the sky with Wang Dong’er at its center: her Hexagram Array! This soul skill had

formidable offensive and controlling capabilities, but it required her to predict her opponent's attacks and movements.

She wasn't working together with Huo Yuhao for now, but she was still as powerful as she had always been.

You Chen didn't seem like he could maintain those seven images for too long. His seven images bolted out and instantly collapsed back together, and it was then that he saw a blade of light that seemed to eclipse the sun sweep towards him.

Wang Dong'er's third soul skill, the Butterfly Goddess Slash.

Her Butterfly Goddess Slash wasn't a concentrated attack anymore. It was separated into one hundred and eight light blades, and they were like an enormous web under Wang Dong'er's control as they rushed towards You Chen.

You Chen retreated explosively. At a time like this, the only way he could avoid this attack was to move backwards. You Chen possessed incredible speed and outstanding offensive abilities, but his defensive powers weren't that impressive at all. He wasn't willing to risk being struck by his opponent. The truth was that You Chen resembled an assassin, and he was most adept with hiding in the darkness and erupting all at once to give his opponent a fatal blow.

However, this was a tournament after all, and there was no way he could hide himself on the competition stage. He left another trail of afterimages as he dashed backwards at breakneck speed.

Wang Dong'er didn't chase him, instead making a simple gesture with her hands, as if she were lifting something.

You Chen had been monitoring her movements this whole time. Once she raised her hands, he nearly subconsciously bounced away diagonally like a fish.

A golden pillar appeared in the path that he was trying to escape toward – it was another Hexagram Array. You Chen's reaction was quick, but Wang Dong'er's judgement was extremely accurate. This simple movement swept away two of his afterimages and caused You Chen's body to tremble. His aura seemed a little weaker than before, and then he looked on as Wang Dong'er's hands made another lifting gesture yet again.

Hexagram Array was a powerful offensive and controlling skill all at once. More importantly, it was a fearsome ability that could be released again and again. Hexagram Array was Wang Dong'er's fourth soul skill, and it was a five-thousand year soul skill. It just didn't look like it on the surface.

You Chen was taken aback as he watched her lift her hands once more, and he immediately lunged sideways. However, he could see the sly and cunning smile on Wang Dong'er's face as he pounced horizontally, and her hands suddenly paused in midair. In the next moment, You Chen could only watch as his body slammed into a golden beam that had just soared into the sky.

A golden layer immediately erupted from You Chen's body without hesitation. He didn't dare let Wang Dong'er's Hexagram Array touch him. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy didn't have exclusive rights to use the Invincible Barrier; the Clearjade Sect had some too. He was immediately enveloped by her Hexagram Array when he released his Invincible Barrier.

You Chen couldn't be bothered with his soul power that was being rapidly drained away. He tapped on the ground with his foot, and unleashed as much speed as he possibly could. This time, he left nine afterimages in his wake as he lunged directly towards Wang Dong'er. He wanted to use what little time his Invincible Barrier provided to give Wang Dong'er a series of his most formidable attacks. This was the only way he had a shot at victory!

Wang Dong'er began to move when her third Hexagram Array appeared. Her Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings flapped vigorously and propelled her into the air. The Light of the Butterfly Goddess burst out like a meteor shower and rained down toward her unbelievably quick opponent.

At the same time, a heavy cannon appeared in her hands... a soul cannon! The silver-white cannon had very elegant lines, and its barrel was extremely large. The entire cannon was about one and a half meters long, and the cannon mouth was a stunning twenty centimeters wide. Wang Dong'er carried it on her shoulders, and it seemed as if there were beauty in the violence.

You Chen was exceedingly fast, indeed. He tried his best to dodge the attacks of the Light of the Butterfly Goddess as much as he could. With his Invincible Barrier activated, the Light of the Butterfly Goddess naturally couldn't hurt him, but all those lights could greatly impede his forward momentum. He would be significantly slowed if he allowed even one ray to touch him.

You Chen could clearly tell from their previous few collisions that this six-ringed Soul Emperor from the Tang Sect was incredibly powerful. Her soul power was more than one class above his own, and he would definitely lose this battle if he allowed her to regain her balance. His method was risky business, but it was clear that his Invincible Barrier was his last chance at victory.

He was coming closer and closer to Wang Dong'er. He didn't hesitate any longer, and his fifth soul ring lit up as the two spikes in his hands shone with ghastly white light. The lights extending from the spikes were about half a foot long, and they were incredibly sharp as they whistled through the air.

### [Chapter 296.3: The Clearjade Sect](#)

These were high-frequency oscillating blades, and they didn't possess any element at all. This attack relied on high-frequency oscillations for powerful destructive force, and was meant to counter Wang Dong'er's Goddess of Light's Possession that she had used in the previous round. The Tang Sect wasn't the only one who was observing and analyzing their opponents – the Tang Sect's outstanding performance meant every single one of their opponents was also investigating and analyzing them.

You Chen tapped on the ground with his foot, and nine afterimages followed him as his fifth soul ring lit up, and merged into his body one after another. You Chen's body seemed to become transparent in this moment, and he appeared to transform into a specter while his speed increased explosively. His Invincible Barrier's radiance was raised to the highest possible level, and his body seemed to integrate into his spikes as he barreled towards Wang Dong'er like a lightning bolt.

The Spectral Spear. His martial soul was similar to Na Na's, but they weren't entirely the same. Na Na's martial soul leaned towards avoiding physical attacks, while his martial soul took a different path – he used his martial soul to boost his speed and destructiveness. You Chen's fifth soul skill was his strongest attack, and even seven-ringed Soul Sages wouldn't have a good time facing him head-on when he was using a pair of Class 6 soul tools at the same time.

Vigorous soul power undulations erupted around him in that instant, and the air around him seemed to tear apart as he pierced through it. Thin, delicate cracks appeared continuously around him.

Wang Dong'er was faced with a threat so huge that her life was at stake, but she smiled. Yes, she smiled, and it was a very casual smile.

Everyone could hear a vigorous explosion in the next moment.

The heavy cannon on Wang Dong'er's shoulder exploded, and intense silver light detonated in midair – it was a shock bomb. No, more accurately put, this was a combination of a shock bomb and a rupturing bomb. The incredible force from the explosion hindered her opponent and pushed Wang Dong'er's body backwards like an arrow at the same time.

The Spectral Spear's explosive speed was simply too quick. Even though You Chen was pushed back by the shock bomb, he was still a beat faster than Wang Dong'er's backward momentum from the soul cannon's recoil. He was about to catch up to her.

Wang Dong'er smiled faintly as she retracted the wings behind her back. Black light flickered across her right hand, and a hammer appeared. This hammer was black all over, but it wasn't eye-catching at all. However, the entire atmosphere seemed to become a lot more solemn and heavier when this hammer appeared.

A dark halo arose from beneath Wang Dong'er's feet, and she placed the hammer in front of her in the next moment.

“Ding!” Wang Dong'er's body accelerated once more as she flew backwards amidst the bright ring from the collision. She quivered faintly before returning to normal, while the Spectral Spear's quickest stab was already over. The Spectral Spear's speed plummeted, and You Chen could only watch as Wang Dong'er flew out and distanced herself from him.

This... what kind of ability is that? Twin martial souls? You Chen was dumbfounded, and there was nothing else he could think off. Afterwards, he looked on as Wang Dong'er's enchanting body spun halfway when she touched the ground, and she suddenly made a throwing action. The black hammer in her hands flew out as it rotated through the air and came directly for him. She opened her hands by her sides and made a lifting action at the same time.

You Chen's Invincible Barrier was gone, and he had just used his fifth soul skill. This was an awkward moment. He had already completed his previous move, but he wasn't ready for his next one.

He knew that there was no way he could win this bout. The only thing he wanted to do right now was to delay for as much time as possible, and to consume as much of this Soul Emperor's soul power as he could.

You Chen wanted to evade this attack, but he realized to his intense fear that golden halos had appeared respectively on his left and on his right. These golden halos were two meters in diameter, and there was actually one more behind him. This also meant that he didn't dare to dodge to his left, right, or backwards in that instant. This moment of hesitation was all it took for that black hammer to arrive in front of him.

You Chen had no other choice but raise his spikes and meet this hammer head-on.

The corner of Wang Dong'er's mouth curled into a sneer. "Wang Qiu'er isn't the only one who has strength – I'm strong, too."

"Boom!" An intense explosion could be heard, and You Chen's body could be seen hurtling through the air. The Hexagram Array behind him surged into the sky as he flew backwards, and the array snatched him into its light and shot him up into the sky.

Wang Dong'er's black hammer returned to her hands. Two sharp spikes were impaled into the ground where You Chen was previously positioned.

The Clear Sky Hammer, the number-one tool soul in the world!

The Clear Sky Hammer was a pure strength-type tool soul, and it had been ranked amongst the six most powerful martial souls in the world more than ten thousand years ago. The Clear Sky Hammer was Wang Dong'er's second martial soul, and this was where her true power lay.

You Chen wasn't the only one who was astounded when he witnessed Wang Dong'er's Clear Sky Hammer and the black soul ring that appeared along with it. Huo Yuhao himself was surprised; even he didn't know that Wang Dong'er had added a soul ring to her second martial soul. She managed to defeat her opponent without using her Clear Sky Hammer's soul skill.

This was pure might – this was the might of a Soul Emperor from Shrek Academy!

"Stop!" Zhang Zhan appeared before Wang Dong'er in time to stop her from pursuing her opponent. You Chen was entirely under her Hexagram Array's control, and his soul power was slipping away at an alarming rate, while he didn't seem like he had a chance to struggle out of it. This bout was over.

"The Tang Sect is victorious in the first round." Zheng Zhan announced this bout's result justly. He glanced at Wang Dong'er with an extra tinge of respect in his eyes.

"You... you're from the Clear Sky Sect?" Zheng Zhan asked softly.

Wang Dong'er glanced at him. She had never been friendly at all towards anyone from the Sun Moon Empire. "So, the Sun Moon Empire also knows about the Clear Sky Sect."

Zheng Zhan could feel her hostility. He felt a little exasperated as he replied, "Why can't the Sun Moon Empire know about the Clear Sky Sect? I didn't expect to see the descendant of someone that I'm familiar with. I know somebody from the Clear Sky Sect, and he should be your senior. We'll talk about this after the tournament."

Wang Dong'er's expression became a lot warmer and more relaxed when she heard that Zheng Zhan knew someone from the Clear Sky Sect. She nodded her head as she took out a Milk Bottle to replenish her soul power.

Wang Dong'er's victory in the first bout wasn't that easy. She was far stronger than her opponent, but she didn't like You Chen's abilities at all. You Chen was focused on extreme offensiveness, and the tables would've been turned if she'd made even a single mistake and allowed her opponent to ambush her. This was the reason why Wang Dong'er didn't want to give him any more chances – she was willing to expose her second martial soul to finish the battle as quickly as possible.

Her Hexagram Array ended, and You Chen crashed to the ground. His entire body was scorched and burnt black from Wang Dong'er's Fire of Light, and he was in terribly bad shape. However, he didn't sustain overwhelmingly serious injuries, and he jumped off the stage after throwing a fearful glance at Wang Dong'er.

Wang Dong'er didn't like his fighting style, but he didn't like her fighting style either. The Hexagram Arrays that could appear at any position gave him the biggest headaches, and this feeling was aggravated after he was enveloped by one Hexagram Array and had a taste of what it could do – he was in so much pain and agony that he wanted to die. The Hexagram Array possessed the formidable Fire of Light that could burn Wang Dong'er's opponents, and it also contained incredible restrictive capabilities. Finding oneself inside a Hexagram Array was like entering a marsh swamp. You Chen's cultivation rank was lower than Wang Dong'er in the first place, and it seemed like an impossible task for him to escape from her Hexagram Array.

"Next." Wang Dong'er turned towards the Clearjade Sect's camp, and her eyes swept coldly towards their mysterious team leader. This fellow dared to stare threateningly at Huo Yuhao. She had been bottling up her anger about this for a while now, and she would be more than happy if their team leader would jump on stage to challenge her.

However, the Clearjade Sect's team leader seemed exceedingly calm, and even the rest of his team were as such. They didn't seem very affected by their defeat in the first bout.

The Clearjade Sect's team leader sat still and didn't move. He didn't give any instructions at all, but someone else from the Clearjade Sect's waiting area stood up and jumped on stage with a flash.

Wang Dong'er was momentarily stunned when this person got on the stage. Her opponent's looks were a little strange – he had his head lowered this whole time, and he hid himself amongst his other team members and was very unassuming. However, it was clear that he could give anyone a lasting impression.

This youth had pale white skin, and his face was also ghastly pale and without color at all. His entire frame seemed sickly and ill, and his hair couldn't be considered long. He used some special hair products to comb his hair into a swept-back hairstyle, and his hair seemed shiny and reflective. His eyes were light brown in color, and they looked very cold. His body was a little hunched, and he was very tall but very skinny. His arms were especially long as they swayed faintly by his sides. This youth gave everyone an eerie and chilly feel from the moment he stepped on stage.

This person wouldn't have to put on any makeup at all if he was seen in the Holy Ghost Church's camp.

Zhang Zhan stared at the youth from the Clearjade Sect. "Report your names."

"Wang Dong'er of the Tang Sect."

"Adler of the Clearjade Sect." This youth had a strange voice. He was soft-spoken, and his voice was extremely sharp. However, he had a very masculine disposition, which was in contrast to the chilly and eerie aura that emanated from his body.

"Move back to your corners and prepare for battle."

Wang Dong'er wasn't in a hurry at all. She was still holding a Milk Bottle in her hands, and she was making use of this short period of time to replenish the soul power that she had expended before. Both contestants retreated to their respective edges and stared at each other across the competition stage.

Wang Dong'er's vision wasn't as sharp as Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes, but her eyes were still relatively good. She realized to her surprise that Adler's eyes had become a different color when she gazed at him from afar. His eyes were originally an ice-cold light brown color, but they were now completely red, and frighteningly so – it felt as if his eyes had been tainted with fresh blood in an instant.

“Begin!” The Unbreakable Douluo, Zheng Zhan, swung his right hand downwards to announce that the match had begun.

The contestants moved at the same time. Adler tapped lightly on the ground with his foot, and he soared into the air as if he didn't have weigh anything at all. A faint red light emerged from his body as wings appeared behind his back – a martial soul that could fly.

### [Chapter 297.1: The Vampire Bat](#)

The wings expanded, and they were evidently very big. However, they seemed to be formed from skin. The color of blood in his eyes became even more intense, and two fangs emerged in his mouth. A thick smell of blood came from him.

On the main podium, the mysterious Imperial Tutor who sat next to Xu Tianran suddenly exclaimed, “Eh.”

“What's the matter, Imperial Tutor? Are you interested in this disciple from the Clearjade Sect?” Xu Tianran noticed his reaction, and questioned him immediately.

The mysterious Imperial Tutor said plainly, “His martial soul should be the Vampire Bat. Your Highness, please take a look. His body has been influenced by his martial soul, and while the change does not appear to be very significant, it's actually rather extraordinary. If we cultivate him well, he'll be someone with great potential. Xiaofeng.”

When she heard his call, a mysterious person suddenly appeared and stood silently behind him. It was a woman clad entirely in a long red robe. While one could not see her face, her body was evidently seductive, as all her feminine curves were brazenly displayed.

“After the competition ends, bring this disciple of the Clearjade Sect to me,” instructed the Imperial Tutor.

“Yes,” said a soft voice from within the red robes. She took a step back, and disappeared like a puff of smoke.

Just as they were discussing this intensely, the battle in the arena commenced.

Wang Dong'er made a decisive decision in the face of her opponent's flying-type martial soul. This had to be a close-combat soul engineer. Compared to her opponent's jet-black skin-like wings, her Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings were much more beautiful. Wang Dong'er's deep-blue wings opened, and with the toes of her feet touching the ground, she slid over to her opponent.

The two of them flew into the air simultaneously as they circled each other.

Adler raised his hands. On each of his hands, one could see five bright-red nails. Each nail looked vibrant and slightly wet, as if blood were about to flow out. He roared in a low voice, and his speed increased rapidly in a short time. In mid-air, he made a rush toward Wang Dong'er.

Two yellow, two purple, and one black. This was the ideal soul ring combination for five rings. The third, purple soul ring gave off an intense light as his intense soul power was maximized.

However, in terms of soul rings, no one could compare to Wang Dong'er, much less him. Among Wang Dong'er's six soul rings, one was yellow, two were purple, and three were black. This was superior compared to the ideal soul ring combination. At this moment, her second soul ring started to flash.

The two of them chose different battling methods. Wang Dong'er used her Light of the Butterfly Goddess as a huge amount of golden light swamped her opponent. She tried to scout him out with this attack.

However, Adler's body increased exponentially in size. His muscles started to throb and grow quickly, and one could feel a powerful energy coming from his body. He tried to make a rush at Wang Dong'er. He raised his razor-sharp claws in the air. One could hear sharp shrieks.

Faced with Wang Dong'er's Light of the Butterfly Goddess, Adler displayed his powerful evasive abilities. His entire body was like a fish in water. With his pair of wings, he dodged rapidly. He was able to fly in the face of the numerous balls of light coming his way without getting hurt.

Is this the innate reaction speed of bats? Echolocation. Wang Dong'er, a high-flyer from Shrek Academy, was able to make an accurate judgment. At this moment, she assessed that her opponent had a rarely-seen and difficult-to-deal-with bat martial soul.

Adler was soon in front of Wang Dong'er. He reached out with his claws. One of his claws was aimed at Wang Dong'er's face, while the other one made straight for her heart.

Those who were close enough could see that his claws gave off an intense red light. One could sense an intense, bloody smell from the sharp aura. If his claws were to land, it would be enough to rip metal apart.

Wang Dong'er, who was extremely close to him, could see that her opponent's 'claws' on his nails were from actually finger sleeves he had on. This also meant that her opponent was using a close-combat soul tool.

Is the Tang Sect afraid of close combat? Wang Dong'er did not try to dodge. She used a golden light to protect her body as she sliced out with her left wing.

While Adler's arm might be long, it could not be longer than Wang Dong'er's wings! Faced with her razor-sharp wings, Adler roared in a low voice and he tried to grab it with his right claw.

"Peng!" It was a head-on clash. This was the result of a clash between two extremely resilient objects.

The two of them trembled slightly in mid-air. Wang Dong'er did not move, but Adler was sent flying back by two meters. While he tried to control it, everyone could see that he would be at a disadvantage if there were more of such clashes. One had to know that he had already tried to maximize his own powers with the help of his third soul ring. This was the difference between a Soul Emperor and a Soul



King. Furthermore, Wang Dong'er was a twin-souled Soul Emperor. Her second martial soul gave her an additional soul ring. In terms of soul power strength, even Bei Bei, who was a rank higher than her, might not be as powerful.

With that one move, she was able to overcome her opponent's assault. As Wang Dong'er had used one of her butterfly wings, her body naturally descended. However, she fluttered the wing she had just used, and her other wing also rose along with her.

One could see that a golden blue figure was executing an eye-catching uppercut, enveloping Adler within.

The bat-like wings behind Adler suddenly opened up. A pair of sharp claws instantly formed countless other claw-like shadows. At the same time, the red light on his claws dimmed slightly. Following that, a 30 centimeter-long light shot out from each of his claws as they clashed with Wang Dong'er's outstretched butterfly wings.

Small explosions sounded non-stop in mid-air. Wang Dong'er was a dancing Radiant Butterfly Goddess. Her wings were not only fast, but they also moved elegantly. Every time she clashed with Adler, she was able to force him back a bit. Gradually, she was in pursuit of him. Evidently, she was using her overwhelming power to push him into submission.

However, Adler was no weakling either. While he was not as powerful as Wang Dong'er, he chose to clash with her head-on. He looked very stable. While he was in retreat, he still kept his cool. He showed no sign of weakness or defeat.

In the Tang Sect resting zone, Xu Sanshi nodded and said, "This guy from the Clearjade Sect is not bad! However, he must have some other plan in mind for him to do so without changing his fighting style."

Huo Yuhao smiled, nodded and said, "This will depend on Dong'er." With his last lesson in mind, he became much more careful now. The protective barrier around the arena was troublesome, but Huo Yuhao could still overcome it. If Wang Dong'er was in danger, he would act immediately, even at the risk of penalties.

However, as he looked at Wang Dong'er's excellent performance in the past two rounds, a smile crept across Huo Yuhao's face. Dong'er was right. Earlier, she had suppressed herself too much. Now, even when she dressed up as a guy, she became even prettier.

In mid-air, the two of them continued to fight without using any soul skills. All they relied on was their reaction speed and battle experience. Gradually, they flew higher and higher into the sky.

Adler's disadvantage became more and more pronounced. Suppressed by Wang Dong'er, he found it harder and harder to resist. His third soul skill gradually weakened.

At this moment, suddenly, Adler let out a terrifying shriek. The second soul ring on his body started to shine brightly.

Wang Dong'er, who was in mid-air, froze in the face of her opponent's shriek.

Second soul skill, Terrorshriek.

Adler appeared to have been waiting for this chance for a long time. His fourth soul ring started to shine, and a blood-red shadow, which resembled his figure almost exactly, appeared from his body as it rushed toward Wang Dong'er.

Wang Dong'er's body instantly started to shine with a golden light. However, it seemed incapable of resisting the blood-red figure. A blood-red light flashed, and the blood-red figure appeared behind her. However, it had already taken her form.

Following that, Adler's first soul ring started to shine. He started to chuckle weirdly, making more of a creaking sound. The blood-colored shadow that had flown toward Wang Dong'er started to rise into the sky. Then, it turned into a ball of red light as it flew toward Adler and disappeared into his body.

Instantly, Adler looked much more powerful. Even his pale-white face had a rosy tinge to it. It was as if he had eaten some sort of supplement. With one move, he was able to keep Wang Dong'er's wings from flapping.

In all seriousness, Wang Dong'er did not deserve that blow. She had guessed exactly what Xu Sanshi had guessed. However, Adler's abilities were too mysterious. The sudden explosion of power was too mysterious as well. It seemed capable of overcoming all defenses and instantly, he was able to seize it. In particular, his fourth and first soul skills appeared to work in tandem.

At this moment, Wang Dong'er's face looked much paler. She felt a strong sense of weakness. However, Adler's power increased exponentially. They were still locked in close-combat, but the tables had turned.

Adler's fourth soul skill, Bloodshadow Puppet, and his first soul skill, Bloodsucking.

These were indeed two soul skills that were linked. His Bloodsucking ability normally required him to be near his opponent, where he could bite them with his fangs. Doing so would allow him to use his opponent's blood to replenish his own soul power and strength. This was the innate soul skill of a Vampire Bat. Regardless of what soul beast he killed with this ability, he would only receive this soul skill.

However, his Bloodshadow Puppet was exceptionally powerful. Any form of energy defense was useless against this soul skill. It could only be blocked by physical defenses. Once someone became a target of this, a bit of the essence of one's blood would be forcibly extracted. Doing so would render the target extremely weak. However, Adler could then use his first soul skill to absorb this essence and replenish his own body. This combination was offensive, defensive, and regenerative at the same time. Coupled with his Terrorshriek, he was able to defeat many opponents. At this moment, Wang Dong'er too fell victim to him.

### [Chapter 297.2: The Vampire Bat](#)

Fortunately, Wang Dong'er's cultivation was higher than Adler's. If it were a much weaker opponent, the Bloodshadow Puppet might have sucked him dry.

As they fought, Wang Dong'er was already completely suppressed by her opponent. However, Adler's chain moves had yet to end. After he beat her back, his wings suddenly expanded massively. Following that, rays of red light started to appear mysteriously in the sky. They covered the area where he and

Wang Dong'er had previously fought. All of the rays of light then turned into sharp blades as they slashed at Wang Dong'er.

Empyrean Bloodnet. This was not a soul skill, but instead an ambush from his pair of claws.

His sharp claws were a pair of Class 6 soul tools. The Clearjade Sect clearly invested a lot of money in preparation for this competition.

The sharp finger sleeves were called Bloody Cuts. With each attack, it would bring out a razor-sharp line of blood that was as thin as a string. In reality, they were lines of energy shot from soul tools. They possessed extremely high cutting abilities.

This ability was akin to launching a second attack with each attack. In close combat, it was rather exceptional. What was even more terrifying was the fact that the Bloody Cuts were invisible. They could remain obscure until it was time to reveal them. They could remain hidden in the air they had just passed. When it was time, their user could then activate them. After they had been activated, they would be able to attack anything in 10 meters. When they attacked, they brimmed with a powerful offensive ability. They attacked at random, but they would not attack the person using the Bloody Cuts.

Adler had been placing these around for so long, and the power of the Bloody Cuts was maximized at this moment. Only then did he use this third soul skill to activate this immensely powerful soul tool. The objective was simple: he wanted a quick and simple victory.

If he had used Bloody Cuts straightaway, he would have surely made more trouble for Wang Dong'er. However, he wasn't confident of defeating a Soul Emperor as a mere Soul King. Hence, he chose to bide this time as he quietly used his Bloody Cuts to form a Empyrean Bloodnet. He quietly waited for the right moment, and when it came, he activated them. While the lines of blood would attack at random, Wang Dong'er, who was surrounded by them, would surely be entangled with the many bloody lines and be struck by them. As long as a few could land on her, he would be able to overcome her. This method was not only cruel, but also devious. If her defenses were insufficient, she would be cut into mincemeat.

Wang Dong'er's pale face revealed a cold look. Even when she was pushed to her limits, she did not betray any sign of panic.

Light flashed, and she disappeared from where she was. She suddenly moved to 10 meters away. It was the soul skill of her left leg bone, Instant Shift.

Adler was dumbfounded. As there were too many teams in the tournament, the Clearjade Sect did not notice that Wang Dong'er had already used Instant Shift once before. The Empyrean Bloodnet's area of effect was only ten meters across. Even if Wang Dong'er did not completely escape from it, she already left its most concentrated part.

Not only that, but Wang Dong'er's body started to shine once again with light, blocking some of the bloody lines.

Protective soul barrier? This was a Class 6 protective soul barrier.

Adler re-focused his gaze. He once again used his second soul skill, and a terrifying shriek resounded in the air. He rushed toward Wang Dong'er at the speed of lightning. This time, the Bloody Cuts were no longer hidden. His razor-sharp claws held some of the bloody lines as he rushed toward Wang Dong'er.

The protective soul barrier appeared and disappeared. After it blocked the bloody lines, Wang Dong'er retrieved it. Terrorshriek was no longer effective on her. Her own fourth soul ring started to shine.

The soul skill that had once caused You Chen so much pain appeared in the sky once more. A huge, six-pointed golden star appeared behind Wang Dong'er. Instantly, the golden light swallowed her entire body. Then, it zapped Adler.

The Hexagram Array can be used like this? Adler had not thought of this, but his movements were fast too. He quickly retracted his bat wings, and as gravity made his body plummet, he was able to dodge this blow.

Wang Dong'er raised her right hand, and a radiant golden fire shone in it. The butterfly wings behind her back started to change too.

The two front wings and two back wings started to beat without rhythm. She descended as if she were dancing.

This was a secret technique of the Tang Sect, Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track. She used this skill in mid-air.

The two wings behind Wang Dong'er's back and legs shone with white light. This made her even faster than before. Instantly, around 18 Wang Dong'ers appeared in the sky. They surrounded Adler. Her pair of wings conjured powerful rays of light, which she sent flying toward her opponent.

How can this be possible? He was definitely hit by my Bloodshadow Puppet! At least one-third of his blood essence has been absorbed by me. Why does he still have such strong soul power? How much soul power does he have!? Adler was stunned. After a series of attack, he was indeed able to absorb Wang Dong'er's blood essence, and he felt his powers grow. However, the blood essence in his body seemed uncontrollable. It stopped regenerating him. Coupled with Wang Dong'er's strong counterattack, he quickly sensed that something was wrong.

His fifth soul ring started to shine as Adler's plan immediately changed. He knew that he might not be able to win this fight. However, even if he could not win, he had to wear her down as much as possible so he could create a chance for his teammate.

His fifth soul ring was black. It was a ten-thousand year soul ring, and also his most powerful soul skill. Blood-colored light flashed intensely from his body, and he was able to release a layer of intense bloody light. He planned on using brute force to make Wang Dong'er retreat. Following that, the intense bloody light started to rise and burn. Everyone could feel that he was using his most powerful attack.

Wang Dong'er's fifth soul ring started to shine too. Her body became as clear as a golden crystal. Goddess of Light Possession was not just a soul skill which could resist many types of elements. At the same time, it would greatly enhance all of Wang Dong'er's light-type soul skills! A Hexagram Array five meters wide appeared behind Wang Dong'er's back.

This clash would determine the winner. They were competing in terms of pure physical strength.

However, at this moment, something extraordinary happened.

The rapidly-increasing bloody light in mid-air suddenly stopped. Then, a hysterical scream emerged from the bloody light. "What... what exactly is in your blood?"

Adler's voice was filled with terror. From the bloody light, rays of golden light shot out. Instantly, they broke through their blood-colored surroundings.

It was like a sun was about to emerge from the blood-colored light. A powerful light burst forth from the center, and the bloody light surrounding it started to disintegrate as golden rays pierced through the blood.

"Oh no." The judge, the Unbreakable Douluo, cried out. His body flashed, and he was instantly in the air. A layer of white light enveloped Adler's body.

However, it was too late. He could block attacks from the outside, but how could he block attacks that came from the inside?

A terrifying explosion burst forth in mid-air. Instantly, blood and flesh flew all over, and the eye-catching golden light remained in mid-air for four to five seconds before it slowly faded. However, Adler was gone without a trace. His flesh and blood had disintegrated under the golden light.

The captain of the Clearjade Sect who sat in the resting zone suddenly stood up. A powerful energy could be felt from his body, but in the face of the protective barrier, he was helpless.

In mid-air, Wang Dong'er looked dumbfounded. She did not know why Adler exploded. This had all happened too fast. She quickly retracted her attack.

The golden light gradually faded until it had diminished into several golden motes. Afterwards, it spread out in all directions, before slowly circling around Wang Dong'er and suddenly surging towards her. When the motes light touched her, they gradually disappeared one-by-one. Color returned to Wang Dong'er's pale face as they did so.

This...

Everyone who saw this scene was dumbstruck. What was that golden light? What did Wang Dong'er do? She actually made her opponent explode. She did not seem to have used any powerful soul skill beforehand!

Her opponents, teammates, and even the leadership of the Sun Moon Empire who were watching from the main podium were all completely stunned. What had happened? Why did Adler explode?

"What's in his blood?" The Imperial Tutor mumbled to himself.

The Prince Regent, Xu Tianran, frowned and said, "Can this person's blood attack?"

The Imperial Tutor shook his head and said, "No! This isn't an attack from the blood. Instead, her blood is too unique. It probably has some energy that the Vampire Bat martial soul was unable to devour. In other words, his blood was too nourishing, which caused the body that absorbed it to explode. This doesn't seem to be a trick from the Tang Sect. Adler probably ingested his blood and then experienced

some sort of side effect. Interesting. After this competition ends, I want to catch Wang Dong to do some research. Maybe I'll make some sort of discovery. It's a shame for the little bloodsucking bat though."

Zheng Zhan stared at Wang Dong'er with a green face. He did not know what to say. No matter what, Adler's death had something to do with her. What monsters are in the Tang Sect? Why is it that people die whenever they participate? Their opponents were not weak, but they were even more powerful. Wang Dong had already killed someone in two competitions. What a Soul Emperor.

### [Chapter 297.3: The Vampire Bat](#)

"The round is over. The Tang Sect wins!" announced Zheng Zhan.

With his announcement, the protective barrier over the arena disappeared. Wang Dong'er felt that something was amiss. While this opponent did make quite a lot of trouble for her, she was not a bloodthirsty person, and she did not plan on killing her opponent. However, her opponent died just like that. Can it be because he sucked my blood?

Just as she was pondering this question, there was a sudden sharp scream. A shadow dashed onto the arena like a bolt of black lightning. A black light flashed, and almost instantly the shadow was in front of Wang Dong'er. A long white hand suddenly appeared, and five thirty-centimeter long dark gold claws shot out as they came slashing down toward Wang Dong'er's head.

With her previous lesson in mind, Wang Dong'er had become far more guarded against her opponents, especially since she had just killed someone. Hence, she did not panic in the face of this sudden attack. With her Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track, she quickly retreated out of range.

A layer of white light shone, and the two of them were separated. Zheng Zhan had intervened!

The Unbreakable Douluo was already controlling his temper. Now, in the face of another rule violation, he flew into a rage. A milky-white light appeared and enveloped the black figure. In a deep voice, he said, "The Clearjade Sect violated the rules by ambushing their opponent! They lose this round!"

As he said that, he waved his right hand, and a powerful, shapeless energy sent the black-robed person, the captain of the Clearjade Sect, flying off the arena.

The captain of the Clearjade Sect did not expect that Zheng Zhan would not only block him, but also disqualify him. The moment he landed on the ground, he jumped back onto the arena.

"She killed my brother!" a raspy yet feminine voice could be heard from the black robes. While it sounded plain, the killing intent in it was evident.

A woman? The captain of the Clearjade Sect was actually a woman? So Adler was her brother!

When Zheng Zhan heard this sentence, his expression softened a bit as he said, "Regardless of your tie with him, his accidental death just now cannot be undone. However, you tried to ambush your opponent, and hence, you are disqualified. If you can still take part in the group round, you may fight."

"She killed my brother," the captain of the Clearjade Sect coldly said once more. With that, she leapt off the arena and sat back down in her spot as if nothing had happened.

“The Tang Sect wins.” Zheng Zhan had to preserve the integrity of his role. Like this, Wang Dong’er had won three rounds. Furthermore, the captain of the Clearjade Sect was defeated just like that.

Wang Dong’er’s eyes narrowed. She stared at the mysterious captain, and then said to Zheng Zhan, “Referee, I concede defeat in the next round. The Tang Sect will send someone else up.”

After two rounds of battling, her soul power was greatly depleted. While she had recovered some of her blood essence, she decided to follow Huo Yuhao’s plan. After all, she had fulfilled her role for this competition thus far.

“The Tang Sect concedes defeat and wishes to switch out. Can the next competitor from both teams please come forward?” Zheng Zhan announced after he acknowledged Wang Dong’er’s defeat.

Xiao Xiao walked into the arena to welcome Wang Dong’er. She gave her a thumbs-up and smiled.

Wang Dong’er said quietly, “Xiao Xiao, be careful. The Clearjade Sect is mysterious. They use their close combat soul tools to support their martial souls, instead of using their martial souls to support their close combat soul tools.”

“Got it!” Xiao Xiao replied quietly. Her beautiful eyes showed nothing but confidence. Up until this moment, she had not really participated. In the previous tournament, she had been too weak, and thought that she could not contribute enough for her team. Now, she finally had a chance to engage in a one-on-one fight. She was brimming with fighting spirit.

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Off the arena, Wang Dong’er instantly returned to Huo Yuhao’s side. In one hand, she clutched a milk bottle, and she held Huo Yuhao’s right hand with her other hand. Their Haodong Power fused, and she began the process of gradually recovering her soul power.

“The opponent’s captain is not someone to trifle with. Afterward, in the group round, you have to be careful of her,” said Huo Yuhao in a low voice.

Wang Dong’er frowned and said, “Yes, I can feel it too. Her energy resembles Adler’s, but it’s much stronger. If I’m not wrong, she should be a Soul Emperor like me. She’s evidently the core of the Clearjade Sect. Now, they’re one man down. Doesn’t she want to kill me? How about I distract her in the group round later, and the rest of you take care of the other members of their team?”

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, “This is a good plan. Let’s see if she’ll fall for it.”

Wang Dong’er smiled too, and said, “You have so much confidence in me!”

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, “Have you forgotten? We’re from Shrek. What’s our motto?”

“Invincible among those of the same level!” Wang Dong’er said, her smile brimming with pride.

Huo Yuhao did not reply. He thought in his heart, Also, I’ll always be by your side.

The third member of the Clearjade Sect was also a girl. Compared to the previous two, she looked more normal. Her face was clear, and she looked pre-pubescent. There was an innocent look about her, and yet she wore a heavy expression on her face. She did not seem to have been affected by Adler’s death.

“Report your names.”

“Tang Sect, Xiao Xiao.”

“Clearjade Sect, Qin Yueyue.”

The two competitors retreated to their respective corners. The Unbreakable Douluo appeared to have regained his cool as he let the two of them go to their corners.

“Begin!”

With his announcement, the two sides started to move. Xiao Xiao took small but light steps as she rushed toward her opponent. She was neither fast nor slow, but instead, she walked at a controlled pace. She appeared to be in no rush to release her martial soul.

Qin Yueyue raised her hands in front of her, and as a ray of light flashed, a weapon appeared in her palms.

It was a long chopping knife... one with a long grip.

The knife was about 3 meters long, and the head of the knife was about a meter wide. The back of the knife was wide, and its blade was extremely sharp. The entire knife gave off a layer of green light, and it seemed exceedingly sharp. However, it was wielded by a girl who was no taller than 1.6 meters. It looked like Qin Yueyue’s palms were not big enough to wrap around the handle of her own knife.

Soul rings started to appear from the top of this long knife. There were five soul rings: two yellow, two purple, and one black. This was an ideal soul ring combination. Furthermore, the long knife was evidently not a soul tool, but instead, her martial soul. No matter how heavy a tool soul was, it would always weigh nothing to its soul master. No wonder she appeared frail, but was actually able to wield this huge knife.

Evidently the three members of the Clearjade Sect all had immense fighting potential. Until now, they had yet to send a four-ringed team member out, only all Soul Kings. Their overall strength was immense. They were no weaker than the Sun Moon team that had put so much pressure on the Shrek team in the previous tournament.

Very few people from the Sun Moon Empire knew much about the Clearjade Sect, much less the teams from the other countries. No one had known that such a powerful sect existed in Radiant City!

Neither competitor moved quickly, and the pace of this battle was unlike the previous one. Soon, they reached the center of the arena.

When Qin Yueyue was twenty meters away from Xiao Xiao, she suddenly stopped. She turned her body, and the huge knife in her hand slashed out towards Xiao Xiao. The first soul ring on the knife started to shine, and a ray of green blade light shot out as it cut at Xia Xiao.

Darkness appeared have lit up in the next moment. A huge cauldron appeared in mid-air without warning, blocking the blade light.

With a ringing of metal, the green light disappeared, and the cauldron stopped moving. Under Xiao Xiao’s feet, the ideal combination of five soul rings also rose. Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron!



When Xiao Xiao released her own martial soul, the judge Zheng Zhan thought, These two girls are so weird. One wields a huge knife, and other a huge cauldron. This will be interesting.

With her first slash blocked, Qin Yueyue tried to cut out again. Her first soul ring shone, but this time, the blade light only carved a solitary line in the ground.

Xiao Xiao retracted her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. She quickened her footsteps as she rushed toward her opponent.

In terms of martial souls, Xiao Xiao appeared to be a control-type soul master, or maybe a control-defense type soul master. Her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute added one soul ring, while her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was good at both control and defense. If she wanted to defeat her opponent, she needed to get close to her.

The green blade light was soon in front of Xiao Xiao. The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron naturally appeared once more as it moved to block the green blade light. However, the blade light twisted and made another line in the ground. It actually circumvented her cauldron as it sliced toward Xiao Xiao.

Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron moved at that moment, too, touching the ground with one of its feet. As the blade light changed directions, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron also rotated on that leg and hit the green blade light, shattering it.

In this short exchange, both sides were able to demonstrate their control over their martial souls. The audience who were far off could not see clearly, but those that were closer could not help but sigh in admiration. Both of them are so strong! This sentiment was shared by everyone watching this match.

#### [Chapter 298.1: A Fake Martial Soul True Body!](#)

When Xiao Xiao blocked her opponent's blade light with the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, her opponent was only ten meters away. Suddenly, her left hand grabbed the cauldron, and she stepped forward with her left leg. She cried out in a girly voice, and her entire body made one rotation with the tip of her left foot as the axis. She lifted the 1.5-meter-wide and tall cauldron, charged it with a ghastly gale of wind, and threw it in Qin Yueyue's direction.

So violent...

Even Huo Yuhao could not help but open his eyes wide in shock. Since when did Xiao Xiao, who was normally so gentle, become so violent?

Qin Yueyue cried out as she stepped forward with her left leg. She sliced forward with the knife in her hand as she slashed at the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron with her blade. For the first time, the body of her blade came into direct contact with the cauldron.

Clang!

This time, an ear-shattering sound like a bell being struck could be heard. The cauldron's trajectory was interrupted by the huge knife, and suddenly, it started to drop vertically. Qin Yueyue was sent back three steps by the impact.

At this moment, Xiao Xiao had already rushed up. She pursued her falling Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron as she pushed forward with her hands. A layer of black light rose around her body as the cauldron continued its trajectory to smash into Qin Yueyue.

The distance was too close, and the cauldron was too big and heavy. It was impossible to even dodge it. Qin Yueyue could only place her knife horizontally before her as she tried to forcefully block the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

There was a bang as the blade of the knife bent slightly, and Qin Yueyue's entire body was sent flying backwards.

However, she was no weakling. After she was sent flying back through the air, she lifted the knife high above her head. Her third soul ring started to shine, and as she swung her hands upward, she was already grabbing onto the bottommost portion of the knife. She chopped down with it forcefully.

Instantly, a blade light about ten meters long descended from the sky relentlessly towards Xiao Xiao. It brimmed with a reinvigorated aura that seemed capable of slicing the arena in two.

Xiao Xiao instantly felt as if there were nowhere for her to hide. The area around her appeared to have been tightly sealed off, but she remained fearless. Her second soul ring started to shine, and she lifted the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron up into the air, blocking the area above her head. The already humongous cauldron grew even bigger, and soon, it was three meters wide. A powerful black light shone around it once more and enveloped Xiao Xiao.

Clang!

Another deafening sound. Xiao Xiao's body bent over slightly, and one could see that half of the green blade light had disappeared in the black light. The rest was blocked by the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron and disintegrated.

Following that, Xiao Xiao chucked the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron in her hands out once more. It went after Qin Yueyue, who had just landed unevenly on the ground. Xiao Xiao's attacks were indeed forceful!

In the Tang Sect's waiting zone, Huo Yuhao could not help but laugh. "Xiao Xiao is such a mace!" Ever since he had returned from his exchange program, he had yet to fight her despite having trained with her many times. As a person, Xiao Xiao was not flashy or flamboyant. Huo Yuhao had not known that Xiao Xiao, whose style was mainly defense and control, had such a violent battling style. From her battling style, did she not resemble an assault-type soul master? She was indeed a pupil of Elder Xuan!

A sharp glint flashed in Qin Yueyue's eyes. Xiao Xiao was putting a lot of pressure on her, giving her no respite. She barely managed to stabilize herself before the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron came at her again.

She stabbed the huge knife into the ground, penetrating it. Qin Yueyue's entire body started to shine with a green glow. With that, one could hear a series of metallic noises, and her entire body was quickly covered by a suit of armor.

It was a completely green full suit of armor, and was looked extremely heavy and thick. Qin Yueyue's body became extremely sturdy, like a goddess of war. As the armor appeared, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was already in front of her.

Qin Yueyue used her right hand to push her knife outward. She had no intention of dodging, but instead attempted to face it head-on.

Boom!

The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was sent flying back. Qin Yueyue pulled out her huge knife, and a light flashed behind her back. She leapt into the sky, and came slashing down at Xiao Xiao with her weapon.

Such power! Xiao Xiao was startled. The increase in her opponent's power evidently came from her suit of armor. This should be her close-combat soul tool. It was a wonderful combination. With the power of the armor, she increased the power of her blade. Compared to her first two teammates, Qin Yueyue's abilities were in no way weaker!

The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron returned to its original position. Xiao Xiao lifted it up with her hands and once more, it acted as a shield above her head. Despite a deafening clang of impact, she was unable to make Qin Yueyue retreat. Instead, she sank down into the metallic floor of the arena.

Now that she had the upper hand, Qin Yueyue showed no mercy. She sliced repeatedly and frantically down at Xiao Xiao, as if she had gone crazy. With each strike, an intense blade light shone. While Xiao Xiao was able to block her offense with the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, she was still forced into a retreat.

Qin Yueyue's armor not only increased her strength, but also increased her soul power. As a close-combat soul master, she did not need to increase the power of her weapon and hence, her soul tool was this armor.

While Xiao Xiao was sent into a retreat, her fighting capabilities were slowly being revealed. When she realized that she could not match her opponent in strength, she decided to change her strategy. She started to spin the cauldron in her hand and activated her Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track. She stopped trying to fight her opponent head-on, but instead tried to stabilize her position by fighting defensively.

By activating her martial soul and the soul armor, her opponent was definitely going to be more drained than her. This was the thought going through Xiao Xiao's mind. Furthermore, she was a twin-souled soul master! While her soul power was not as good as Wang Dong'er's, she was one of the top few soul masters with five soul rings. Hence, she was in no rush, and behaved even more calmly than Wang Dong'er had.

Xu Sanshi, who was watching the match, muttered to himself, "Why does Xiao Xiao resemble a defense-type soul master more than me?"

The first two rounds had ended rather quickly. The third round ended in a defeat for the Clearjade Sect, as its captain had attacked prematurely. The current match was the most intense. The two sides clashed with unparalleled ferocity and intensity, exciting everyone in the crowd.

Clang!

Another blow from the blade was deflected by the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. A sense of futility surfaced in Qin Yueyue's mind. She suddenly felt that the cauldron before her was akin to an

insurmountable mountain. Even with all her strength, she could not do much to it. It was not a good feeling.

Oh no, my soul power is being depleted too quickly. Amidst the helplessness, Qin Yueyue suddenly understood that this was because she lacked the energy to continue her offense.

Xiao Xiao had been waiting for this moment all this while. However, she did not try to beat Qin Yueyue back quickly. Instead, she hoped to train herself up and at the same time, conceal her true abilities.

Xiao Xiao instantly felt Qin Yueyue's sudden loss in energy. Immediately after Yueyue clashed with her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron once more, Xiao Xiao took a step forward. She held onto one side of the cauldron with both arms. Then, she pushed forward with one arm and pulled with the other. She was using a secret technique of the Tang Sect, Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon.

Instantly, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron started to spin. Qin Yueyue spun along with it as her blade was pulled to one side.

Xiao Xiao cried out, and then her hands went down, and the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron started to expand once more. Its first soul ring started to shine and the huge cauldron dropped to the ground.

With a huge boom, a vast amount of black gas started to spread outward. Defenseless, Qin Yueyue was sent flying back from this cloud of black gas.

She was, after all, a soul engineer, and even a close-combat soul engineer was still no soul master. In terms of soul skills, there was still some distance between her and a real soul master, as she relied more on her soul tools. After such a long fight, Xiao Xiao had yet to use any soul skill. Even Qin Yueyue had forgotten that she was fighting a soul master and not a close-combat soul engineer like herself.

The sudden soul skill hit Qin Yueyue when she least expected it. Thanks to it, her body was sent flying into the air. She could feel a hum in her armor, and she suddenly felt nauseous from this blow. In her heart, she knew that something was amiss, but it was too late.

Xiao Xiao pushed forward with both hands, sending the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron flying forward. Her second soul ring started to shine. Cauldron Sweep!

The opportunity was only present for an instant, but Xiao Xiao made full use of it. Qin Yueyue had nowhere to run, and was sent flying by this powerful move. In mid-air, she spat out a mouthful of blood.

Xiao Xiao leapt into the air. She grabbed the shrinking cauldron, and her body spun and sent the cauldron flying out. It sliced through the air with a terrifying sound as it made its way toward her opponent.

"I admit defeat!" Qin Yueyue cried out in mid-air.

A huge figure appeared in mid-air and blocked the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron with one palm.

When he looked at the cauldron, which was still spinning against his palm, Zheng Zhan could not help but sigh in admiration at the Tang Sect's strength. The Clearjade Sect was not weak, and they even had some unique abilities. However, they had been forced into a tight corner by the Tang Sect. No wonder they were able to beat the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy! If this went on, this team would be one of the favorites for the championship title.

A black light flashed, and the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron disappeared. On his other side, Qin Yueyue fell to the ground, leaning on her knife. While her protective soul tool was able to absorb most of the impact from that blow, her innards were still shaking from the shock.

### [Chapter 298.2: A Fake Martial Soul True Body!](#)

Qin Yueyue knew that if she tried to go on, she could still wear Xiao Xiao down. However, if she did that, she would be unable to participate in the group round later on. It was the fifth round of the individual round, which also meant that her side had already lost four rounds. The only way to victory was in the group round. Furthermore, this was contingent on at least two victories in the individual round. She had to keep up her fighting abilities, so she conceded defeat.

“The Tang Sect wins!”

At this moment, in the individual elimination round, the Tang Sect had four points, while their opponent only had one. The Clearjade Sect only had three members left.

Wang Dong'er, who was sitting next to Huo Yuhao, asked quietly, “Yuhao, shall we give them a chance for the group round?”

Huo Yuhao looked her in the eye, smiled, and said, “Of course we have to give them a chance. If not, how will their team captain be satisfied?”

Wang Dong'er understood what he meant as she replied, “I understand.”

Huo Yuhao smiled and squeezed her hand. The others of Shrek's Seven Monsters smiled slightly. Only Na Na didn't know. What does she mean by 'I understand'?

Jiang Nannan whispered in a low voice next to her, “Clear all obstacles for the glory of Shrek.”

Now Na Na understood. Her heart was filled with a sense of profound respect. They wanted to clear all obstacles for the team from Shrek Academy! The Clearjade Sect was powerful enough to threaten Shrek Academy. They were trying to weaken it as much as possible.

The Tang Sect could choose to advance or retreat, they had many options to choose from. However, this was not the case for the Clearjade Sect. Their captain, who had been sitting firmly in her seat, suddenly stood up. She stared coldly at Xiao Xiao and then at the youth next to her.

The youth stood up too. In a low voice, he conversed with the captain of the Clearjade Sect and then, he stood up and went on-stage.

“Tang Sect, Xiao Xiao.”

“Clearjade Sect, Xue Bing.”

“Let the round begin.”

With the Unbreakable Douluo's announcement, the youth from the Clearjade Sect known as Xue Bing shot forward like an arrow. At the same time, two yellow, three purple, and one black soul ring rose around his body.

Soul Emperor!

Was he actually a six-ringed Soul Emperor? When they noticed their opponent's Soul Emperor-level cultivation, some in the Tang Sect frowned. If Xue Bing was a Soul Emperor, and if their captain was a Soul Emperor, this meant that their team had two Soul Emperors! In the last tournament, other than Shrek Academy and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, there was no other team with this combination. They had never expected to meet such a team in the pre-trials of the tournament. This meant that while the Clearjade Sect was not as powerful as the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, they were not too far off.

Xiao Xiao looked at her six-ringed opponent, but remained fearless. She maintained her previous tempo as she approached him.

As Xue Bing rushed toward her, an emerald-green light started to shine from metallic green rings on his body. In total, there were six metal rings. These six metal rings gave off a warm light. As the distance between Xue Bing and Xiao Xiao closed, his body started to undergo a sudden change.

Layers of green scales started to appear from underneath his skin. When he first released his martial soul, he was able to use his soul power to suppress the change in it, so it only revealed itself now. Not only that, but his also body started to elongate, and as his body arched in mid-air, it extended by more than 10 meters. The six soul rings that surrounded his bucket-thick python-like body started to spin too!

His first and third soul rings started to shine. His body surged forward as he came smashing down onto Xiao Xiao.

What kind of martial soul is this? Xiao Xiao looked stunned. This was evidently not a typical martial soul, and her opponent was not yet a Soul Sage. Naturally, he would not be able to reveal his Martial Soul True Body. However, in his current shape, was this not like a Martial Soul True Body? How could this be possible?

While she was shocked, Xiao Xiao's movements did not slow. She retreated quickly, and her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron appeared. It suddenly enlarged as it came crashing down from the sky.

Xue Bing had no intention of dodging it. Instead, he used his huge python-like body and clashed head-on with the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

What happened next shocked Xiao Xiao greatly. After her immense cauldron smashed into Xue Bing, it was actually sent flying away. Xue Bing's body continued to descend onto Xiao Xiao. He opened his mouth to reveal rows of fangs as he tried to swallow her whole.

That's right, this is the power of a Martial Soul True Body. As she came from Shrek Academy, Xiao Xiao's knowledge was wide. From the force of the crash just now, she was able to ascertain her suspicions.

If it were not a Martial Soul True Body, how could he knock her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron so far away?

Could her opponent be a seven-ringed Soul Sage instead of a Soul Emperor? How could this be possible? A twenty-year-old seven-ringed Soul Sage! In the entire history of the Douluo Continent, this had never happened before.

While Xiao Xiao was shocked, her body did not freeze. The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, which had disappeared after it was sent flying away, re-appeared next to her. Xiao Xiao's gaze turned serious, and

she stretched her hands apart. Instantly, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron split into three. She was protected in the center by the three copies of the cauldron. At the same time, her fourth soul ring started to shine.

Each of the three cauldrons started to shine with an intense black light. Three rays of black light shot into the sky. They met in mid-air, and then crashed down onto the body of the huge python.

“Seal!” Xiao Xiao made an odd gesture with her hands. Her body started to float upward from the center of the three cauldrons, and shine with dazzling runes. Her thousand-year fourth soul skill gave off an unparalleled aura of power.

The body of the huge python that descended from the sky was too enormous, so there was no way of dodging it. The moment the green light from its body touched the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron’s black light, it disappeared. Following that, an odd scene appeared.

Xue Bing’s huge body started to shrink quickly as it fell from the sky. The three cauldrons started to move away from each other as they formed the shape of an equilateral triangle.

Xiao Xiao stood near one of the cauldrons. Her hands made an odd heart-like shape.

When Xue Bing’s body landed, it was only a third of its previous size. It was still in the shape of a huge snake, but it seemed it had been bound the black light, and was twisting about intensely.

Cauldron’s Seal! This was Xiao Xiao’s fourth soul skill, a very powerful control-type soul skill!

Xiao Xiao’s Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was an ancient martial soul that had been passed down for many generations. In the past, a cauldron was an important symbol of the state. This skill was akin to Cauldron Quake, which Xiao Xiao could activate by combining her first and second soul skills.

Xiao Xiao’s fourth soul skill came from a mystical soul beast. When the soul ring of this soul beast fused with her, an anomaly occurred.

This soul beast was an oddity from the past, known as the Xiezhi. It was a powerful soul beast that brimmed with a severe aura that could suppress evil. However, as pure Xiezhis had long been extinct, this soul beast only had some Xiezhi blood in it. The thousand-year soul beast Xiao Xiao had killed had looked more like a goat.

However, the Xiezhi blood in this goat-like soul beast was fully brought out in its fusion with the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, and an anomaly happened. This thousand-year soul skill now had an extremely powerful sealing ability, able to suppress auras and seal all beings. Once a being was sealed, two outcomes would arise. First, it would be sealed for three seconds. During this time, Xiao Xiao could not attack it, as she had to control the soul skill. However, in those three seconds, the opponent’s soul power would be suppressed by the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, and at least thirty percent of it would be eroded away. No matter how much more powerful the opponent was, as long as it was not two levels more powerful than Xiao Xiao, her Cauldron’s Seal would work.

The other situation arose when the opponent was unable to break free from Cauldron’s Seal. The result then would be even more terrifying. After it had been suppressed by Cauldron’s Seal, it would be sealed within the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, and only released upon Xiao Xiao’s command.

Of course, the cauldron could only imprison one being at a time. If it wanted to imprison another, it had to release the first one!

In other words, this fourth soul skill was Xiao Xiao's killer move. As she faced off against a more powerful opponent, she finally decided to use it.

Xue Bing's martial soul was not a huge python, but instead another primordial lord of the jungle, an anaconda!

Anacondas normally lived in the depths of jungles and swamps. As it was naturally powerful and could devour even lions and tigers, anyone that got trapped by one would be doomed.

Xue Bing was indeed a six-ringed Soul Emperor. The reason why he could reveal his Martial Soul True Body was because of the six metal rings that had appeared on his body. They were six Class 5 soul tools, but they belonged to a set. Together, they were powerful enough to activate the hidden strength of a soul master's martial soul and give rise to an increase in soul power. Xue Bing, who was originally a Soul Emperor, could use the metallic rings to activate his Martial Soul True Body. How could he not delight in it? He had immediately abandoned his original close-combat soul tool and decided to cultivate this set of metallic rings wholeheartedly. By using it in this tournament, he hoped to achieve an earth-shattering success!

Who knew that he would have the foul luck of meeting Xiao Xiao's Cauldron's Seal!

#### [Chapter 298.3: A Fake Martial Soul True Body!](#)

Xiao Xiao's cultivation could not compare to Xue Bing's and hence, he was only trapped by Cauldron Seal for three seconds. However, in these three seconds, one could clearly see that the power of the anaconda had been severely weakened. This was the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron's trademark ability to weaken its target's soul power.

With much difficulty, Xue Bing was able to escape from Cauldron Seal. However, as he struggled, he felt a sense of disorientation. This was an inherent result of the suppressive power of the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

Xiao Xiao knew that her cultivation was not as good as her opponent's. At this moment, there was no use holding back. The third, second, and first soul rings on her body all started to shine.

The first to activate was the third soul ring. The split Threelives Soulcrush Cauldrons suddenly grew massively, to the point where their diameters exceeded three meters. Following that, the first soul ring kicked into effect. The three cauldrons were simultaneously lifted thirty centimeters off the ground and then, they came crashing down simultaneously.

As a huge tolling sound rang out, three black halos of light started to spread, fusing at the center of the three cauldrons... right where Xu Bing, in the shape of an anaconda, was located.

Xu Bing, who had just regained control of his body, froze as the intense tremor hit him. Following that, he saw three cauldrons, almost as big as three small mountains, coming straight toward him from three different directions.



The first soul skill of the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was Cauldron Quake, the second one was Cauldron Sweep, and the third one was Cauldron's Might. After the fourth soul skill, Cauldron Seal, was activated, these three soul skills were used almost back-to-back by Xiao Xiao. Her control of her soul skills was godly.

With Cauldron's Might, the three Threelives Soulcrush Cauldrons attacked. Even as a Soul Emperor, Xue Bing spat out a mouthful of blood after he was hit by the three cauldrons. Evidently, he was rather severely injured.

At this moment, he saw Xiao Xiao make a face at him as she said, "I admit defeat!" With that, she turned and ran off.

I won? Even if it was a victory, he felt a profound sense of injustice! When Xue Bing returned to his human form, his face was so dark that it was no different than if he had lost. However, the Unbreakable Douluo was already in front of him, and he couldn't do anything even if he wanted to. He remembered the example of his teammate earlier on.

Xiao Xiao jumped down from the arena and said, "Yuhao, I didn't finish my task."

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "No, you have done it very well." As he said that, he looked at the arena once more, and then said in a loud clear voice, "Referee, we decide to forgo the individual elimination round and hope we can progress straight into the group round, could you kindly allow it?"

Forgo the individual round? This is the perfect chance to score points! Are they afraid of Xue Bing, who can use his Martial Soul True Body?

Many observers thought this way too, as they would never have imagined that they would be able to witness such power in a group of soul masters and soul engineers below the age of twenty. This was unbelievable!

Zheng Zhan nodded and said, "The Tang Sect forgoes the individual round. In the individual elimination round, the Tang Sect earns four points while the Clearjade Sect earns seven points. Both sides are permitted one minute of rest to prepare for the group round."

Those in the crowd who did not understand thought that the Tang Sect feared their opponent's Martial Soul True Body. However, those who were more discerning realized that Huo Yuhao had made an excellent decision.

With Xue Bing's power, he could possibly win one or two rounds, but was the Tang Sect weaker than the Clearjade Sect? Xu Sanshi had yet to fight, and he had also demonstrated the cultivation of a six-ringed Soul Emperor. Despite Xiao Xiao conceding defeat in the previous round, was it really defeat? She managed to massively drain Xue Bing's power, and if they moved straight into the group round like this, it would be impossible for Xue Bing to recover all his power. Furthermore, only six members of the Clearjade Sect could participate. Among them, You Chen and Qin Yueyue had lost, and they were both drained. Under these circumstances, the Tang Sect would have a comparative advantage in the group round. Five of their team members had yet to take part, and were all fresh.

Points-wise, it was only a consolation for the weaker team. For a team that could dominate completely in this competition, it was nothing. When Huo Yuhao said that he wanted to abandon the individual

round and move straight into the group round, it was clear that he no longer cared about these points. Coupled with the fact that they had already beaten the team from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, they would be able to enter the top eight as long as they could beat the Clearjade Sect.

One minute was not a lot of time. Soon, the members of both teams went onto the arena. They looked at each other, and the atmosphere instantly turned severe.

The captain of the Clearjade Sect finally appeared. This was the first time she had appeared since she took part in the tournament. She still donned her mysterious black robes and covered her face. However, an icy-cold aura was being emitted from her body in the direction of Wang Dong'er. Taking into account that Adler was her brother, this enmity was set in stone.

Huo Yuhao poked fun at Wang Dong'er next to him and said, "It appears that your charisma doesn't always work for you. Look, this female captain doesn't seem to like you that much!"

Wang Dong'er snorted and said, "That is because I have yet to use the thirty-six tricks I have up my sleeves! If not, who knows what may happen? After all, I didn't kill her brother. He drank my blood to replenish himself and then blew up."

Huo Yuhao chuckled. He too was curious. Why does Wang Dong'er's blood have such power? In other words, if Adler dared to drink her blood, he should be able to break it down, so why did he die from it?

The Unbreakable Douluo stood at the center and beckoned both teams forward.

As they approached each other, the Tang Sect could clearly sense the chilling aura of the captain of the Clearjade Sect.

Zheng Zhan said in a heavy tone, "The competition is about to start. Both of you have many people on your teams and hence, I can't afford to look after every single one of you. Once again, let me remind you that this is only a competition. You only live once, so please cherish your own lives, as well as the lives of your opponents."

As he said that, he turned to look at the captain of the Clearjade Sect and said, "It's regretful that your brother died. At the same time, I wish to apologize to you for failing to protect him. However, he was not killed by Wang Dong'er. I think you know better than me why he exploded."

The captain of the Clearjade Sect did not respond. She continued to give Wang Dong'er her death stare.

"Can the participants from both sides please state your names, starting from the Clearjade Sect."

"Clearjade Sect, Qin Yueyue."

"Clearjade Sect, You Chen."

"Clearjade Sect, Chen Jun."

"Clearjade Sect, Qing Qing."

"Vice-Captain of the Clearjade Sect, Xue Bing." Xue Bing's face was pale as he stared at Xiao Xiao. He knew the taste of being hit consecutively by four of Xiao Xiao's soul skills!

The Clearjade Sect captain was the last to open her mouth. In her raspy, icy-cold and feminine voice, she said, "Clearjade Sect, Cain."

Cain? What an odd name. Among the two other members of the Clearjade Sect who had yet to take part, Chen Jun was a tall youth and Qing Qing was a plain-looking girl with a nice body.

"Tang Sect, Huo Yuhao."

"Tang Sect, Wang Dong."

"Tang Sect, Xu Sanshi."

"Tang Sect, He Caitou."

"Tang Sect, Jiang Nannan."

"Tang Sect, Xiao Xiao."

"Tang Sect, Na Na."

The seven members of the Tang Sect reported their names. Before the match even began, the tension between the two sides appeared capable of igniting the very air.

For the Tang Sect, this was one of the strongest teams they had met since they took part in this Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament. To them, this was a test, especially for Huo Yuhao as their captain.

"Both teams, step back."

The two teams slowly moved back. Wang Dong'er continued pushing Huo Yuhao's wheelchair, and hence spoke to no one as she walked slowly away. They could clearly sense that Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection was joining all of them into a singular entity, like a huge net that enveloped the entire arena. In the mind of every member of the Tang Sect, they all had a bird's-eye view of the entire arena.

When they approached their respective corners of the arena, the two sides started to line up.

On the Clearjade Sect's side, Qin Yueyue, who had battled against Xiao Xiao, stood at the forefront. On Qin Yueyue's left was Chen Jun, and on her right was Qing Qing. Behind her stood the powerful Xue Bing. Cain stepped behind Xue Bing, and You Chen stood behind Cain. Evidently, he was ready to attack with his astounding speed.

On the Tang Sect's side, Xu Sanshi, who always played a defensive role, stood at the front. To his left stood Xiao Xiao, and to his right stood Jiang Nannan. Behind Xu Sanshi was He Caitou, and behind He Caitou was Wang Dong'er and Huo Yuhao. Na Na stood all the way at the back.

The two formations both sides took up were not conventional, but they were well-coordinated.

Zheng Zhan, the Unbreakable Douluo, looked at both sides. Even with his cultivation, he felt a sense of pressure in his heart. After all, no one knew what the result of this competition would be. These youngsters were not only exceptionally strong, but devious as well! He could not manage the entire arena by himself. After all, five-ringed and six-ringed soul masters were already considered the *crème de la crème*!

He forced these thoughts out of his mind and looked at both teams. He raised his left hand and cried out, "Begin!" as he chopped down.

With this, both teams started to move immediately. While the Clearjade Sect only had six people, they were undoubtedly going on the offensive.

Qin Yueyue, who stood at the front, was now supported by her teammates. Her entire body brimmed with strength as she unleashed her Broadsword martial soul. She advanced rapidly, and almost instantly her entire body was covered with a thick layer of armor.

### [Chapter 299.1: Eye of Fear](#)

When Qing Qing raised her hands, something weird happened. There was a ring on every finger of her hands. All ten rings lit up with a bright glow, making her look like a member of the nouveau riche. Following that, a scepter appeared in her hand, two yellow, two purple, and one black soul ring surfacing from it. The first, second, and third soul rings lit up simultaneously. Although her control of her soul skills wasn't as immaculate as Xiao Xiao's, she could still be considered quite adept!

Three connected streaks of lights landed on Qin Yueyue. Her entire body started to shine with green light, and her entire aura immediately changed.

On the other side of Qin Yueyue, Chen Jun materialized a heavy shield in his hand. The top of the shield was rectangular, while the bottom was a triangular wedge. It reached almost two meters in height, a classic tower shield. He looked fearsome as he hoisted his shield. Chen Jun's martial soul was unknown, but it seemed to enhance his strength and soul power. His shield was embedded with four huge gems, which soul engineers could tell formed the formation arrays of his shield.

Attack, defense, and enhancement! The combination of these three from the Clearjade Sect was rather strong. Furthermore, they defended the rest of their teammates as they appeared.

The Tang Sect was advancing less quickly. No one had unleashed any strong abilities. Xu Sanshi walked in front with the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle before him. As he looked at Chen Jun's shield, he even said, "Aiyu, I've finally met someone similar!"

Both parties were less than thirty meters apart now. On the Clearjade Sect's side, Qin Yueyue lifted her blade up high. However, the Tang Sect's formation broke apart just before she managed to slash her blade down. Three went to the left, while four moved to the right, creating a gap in their formation.

Qin Yueyue stopped her blade suddenly and spat out blood in extreme discomfort. The gap her opponents had created was supposed to be where her blade landed!

Just as she stopped, Wang Dong'er used Huo Yuhao's wheelchair to propel herself into the air. In mid-air, the Goddess of Light's pair of butterfly wings opened up, and the Light of the Butterfly Goddess shot straight towards the Clearjade Sect like a glowing meteor shower.

Not only that, but a series of whizzing sounds also resonated out. Streaks and streaks of white light flew into the air under the cover of the Light of the Butterfly Goddess, and engulfed their opponents. The Origin of Destruction, He Caitou, finally attacked!

Apart from He Caitou, the rest of Shrek's Seven Monsters were most adept in mid or close-combat battle. Even Huo Yuhao wasn't an exception. Although he was also a soul engineer, he didn't specialize in long-range attacks.

He Caitou had always been researching stationary soul tools, and he had learned how to accurately attack his targets from a distance. Although he couldn't use stationary soul tools in this tournament, he was still very good in terms of long-range and wide area-type attacks.

While Tang Sect's movements to their left and right appeared very sudden, it was precisely these movements that immediately messed up the Clearjade Sect's rhythm. When He Caitou's wide area attack landed, Qin Yueyue still hadn't slashed out with her blade yet.

Furthermore, He Caitou's soul tools and Wang Dong'er's Light of the Butterfly Goddess were guided by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. The level of precision was down to the millimeter! Huo Yuhao was even monitoring the formation of their opponents!

He Caitou wasn't using a strong soul tool, only a Class 4 stinger cannon. Such soul cannons weren't able to create explosions that covered huge areas, but the penetrative power of the attacks from such soul cannons were very high. They could potentially even punch all the way through someone and hit the person behind them!

The best way to deal with such soul cannons was to avoid them. As long as they were avoided, they were unlikely to cause much damage.

He Caitou fired sixteen of these cannons. At least one of them was targeted at every Clearjade Sect disciple, and was even aimed at their heads. Their points of contact were precisely calculated using Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, and no mistakes would be made. The remaining ten cannons were aimed at one person, which wasn't the team leader or Xue Bing. They were aimed at the weakest, but fastest, You Chen!

Wang Dong'er's Light of the Butterfly Goddess seemed to engulf a huge area, but it only had two main targets, Xue Bing and Cain. The Light of the Butterfly Goddess surrounded both of them for only one reason: to affect them so that they couldn't help You Chen!

As for the three in front, they couldn't pose any threat to the Tang Sect, even though they were a good combination.

Everything sounded like it took a long time to complete, but in fact, this was all done very quickly. A tremendous boom shook the arena!

Wang Dong'er's Light of the Butterfly Goddess was decently strong. She was a Soul Emperor, but her attack wasn't considered extremely strong because she unleashed it over too large of an area. However, they still had to block her attack even if it wasn't at its best! In contrast, the penetrative abilities of stinger cannons were much stronger.

Out of the six Clearjade Sect disciples, Chen Jun, the one with the shield, was the first to make a move.

He raised his shield into the air and covered himself, Qin Yueyue, and Qing Qing.

As the tremendous booms sounded out, the three of them stopped in their tracks, but weren't hurt by the Light of the Butterfly Goddess or the stinger cannons. The intense lights released by his shield blocked all the attacks.

Xue Bing continued to demonstrate his strong side. As he moved, a dominating aura was released from his body. A strong gust of gas rose into the air and destroyed the stinger cannon shell flying towards him. After that, he also helped Cain block the Light of the Butterfly Goddess. He also quickly revealed his martial soul, as he leapt up and jumped over the three in front of him, bursting straight towards the Tang Sect team.

Cain raised her right hand gently, and five long, dark-golden nails extended out. She used her nails to scratch the stinger shell, which seemed to be drained as it contacted her nails, and failed to explode, instantly turning into a piece of scrap metal. As for the Light of the Butterfly Goddess, Cain used her nails to destroy it, too!

However, You Chen wasn't so lucky. As an agility-type soul master, his role was to stay at the sides and lay an ambush for his opponents when the opportunity arose. It was the best way he could unleash his greatest fighting strength. As a result, he was stuck behind as his teammates burst forward. He wanted to take a side route and secretly attack one of Tang Sect's members. He had no fixed target, but instead was ready to attack whoever was most exposed.

However, eleven stinger shells were crashing straight towards him under the cover of the Light of the Butterfly Goddess before he even had a chance to move!

These cannons accurately took into account his trajectory, as well as how he circulated his soul power. He felt as if he were running straight into them!

He wasn't as powerful as Cain, and was even defeated by Wang Dong'er badly in the first round. After some rest, he had restored around fifty to sixty percent of his power. However, he was taken aback by these eleven cannon shells. Out of pure reflex, he used a few soul skills and managed to deal with them.

However, a terrifying feeling caused his entire body to shudder. As he lifted his head to look into the sky, You Chen was horrified to see a metal ball with a diameter of around half a meter in the air. This metal ball was facing him like a huge eye, an intense red glow undulating on its surface. As he lifted his head, a streak of red light had already shot straight down towards him.

At the same time, four familiar golden rings appeared around him. The four beams of golden light also rose and instantly locked him in place, there was no chance of escape.

A huge figure appeared in mid-air. A white barrier blocked You Chen's head, and a loud boom rang out a few times before it stopped. You Chen was very pale as he stood very still.

"Clearjade Sect, You Chen, eliminated." The huge figure was undoubtedly Zheng Zhan. When the streak of red light crashed down, he already knew that You Chen was helpless. In addition, You Chen had already used his Invincible Barrier. Even if he hadn't used it yet, he might not even be able to block this attack even if he tried to use it.

He was facing a strong Class 7 soul tool called the Eye of Fear!

The Eye of Fear was a strange long-distance control-type soul tool. It could only take effect after being fired into the air. How high the Eye of Fear was fired was dependent on the level of the Eye of Fear. Such a soul tool could either be Class 7, 8, or 9. However, the difference in strength between each class was quite large.

A Class 7 Eye of Fear could be fired up to a height of one hundred meters. From there, it could attack up to a distance of three hundred meters. Every ten seconds, it was able to fire a terror ray. A terror ray could dissect, blast, penetrate, dispel, scorch, and corrode, among other effects. How long it could last depended on the charging capabilities of its energy-gathering formation.

A Class 8 Eye of Fear could be fired up to three hundred meters up, and remain in the air. It could attack at a distance of up to a thousand meters, and could be fired every fifteen to twenty seconds. It was three times stronger than a Class 7 Eye of Fear. Additionally, it could explode! When it exploded, everything within a two hundred and fifty-meter radius of it would die!

### [Chapter 299.2: Eye of Fear](#)

As for a Class 9 Eye of Fear, one was rumored to exist only in the Sun Moon Empire's secret weapons vault. No one knew how strong it was, as it had never been used in battle.

Creating a Class 7 Eye of Fear was already very complicated, as difficult as creating three ordinary Class 7 soul tools. While the offensive abilities of an Eye of Fear were quite strong, it had a great flaw in that it couldn't lock onto its target. It was dependent on the aiming of the person who used it. If its target moved, it would be useless. It was very important to predict the movement of one's opponent in order to use this soul tool well. Conversely, it wasn't easy to predict the movement of an opponent who had to be dealt with using an Eye of Fear!

Along with the fact that it was very expensive and complicated to create an Eye of Fear, most Class 7 soul engineers were unwilling to make one.

Another major flaw of the Eye of Fear was that it was easily broken. It would break as long as it was accurately hit even once, and the strength required wasn't high. Furthermore, an Eye of Fear couldn't move once it rose into the air. It had gained a nickname after it was created. It was called the Terrifying Chicken Ribs!

However, this Terrifying Chicken Ribs managed to kick You Chen out of the team round. Otherwise, he would have been blown apart by its terror ray.

This attack along, with Wang Dong'er's four Hexagram Arrays, was enough to defeat You Chen!

This was the teamwork of the Tang Sect team. After firing his Eye of Fear into the air, He Caitou revealed a grin. It was like it had nothing to do with him. He had a second, outer helmet on for the moment, and a control button in his hands. The button enabled him to position the Eye of Fear. As for aiming at You Chen, it was something that he didn't need to worry about. With Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection helping him, the powers of the Origin of Destruction were bound to be enhanced to the limit by the Eyes of the Asura.

Boom!

The huge Anaconda fell from the air and knocked into one side of the wall. Xu Sanshi lunged forward to block before sliding his body back by a meter. He managed to deflect Xue Bing away in that moment, and prevented him from disrupting their formation.

Xiao Xiao also acted at this point. Her black Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron instantly grew in size until it reached three meters in diameter. It fell from the sky and crashed down onto the head of the Anaconda True Body.

Wang Dong'er had just completed her four Hexagram Arrays and returned to Huo Yuhao's side. Jiang Nannan didn't move, and remained at Xu Sanshi's side.

Na Na shifted, moving behind Xu Sanshi.

The front three of the Clearjade Sect also adjusted their positions. Qin Yueyue raised her blade up high under Qing Qing's enhancement, and an intense blade light shot out, more than thirty feet in length. The armor on her body was also like a burning green sun. Her aura was soaring at an alarming speed.

Accumulation. She chose to accumulate her power now. While she only had five rings, the might of her attack would be extremely terrifying afterwards if given time to power it up.

But the Tang Sect seemed to be unbothered by this.

A streak of deep blue sword light appeared like a bolt of lightning and struck the Anaconda True Body.

The Anaconda let out a pathetic scream, and a deep wound surfaced on it. Light shot out in all directions because of this. As Xue Bing activated his Martial Soul True Body, it naturally didn't possess any blood. However, it was surging with soul power undulations! The sword light that struck it carried the strength of Ultimate Ice. Xue Bing was being suppressed!

The cute Snow Lady drifted up into the air. As she saw the Anaconda True Body, she seemed very scornful. The Snow Empress' Three Ultimate Techniques – Unparalleled Chill, Empress' Sword!

The Tang Sect was undoubtedly even more terrifying when they fought as a team. With Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, they easily suppressed their opponents.

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Zheng Zhan sighed as he watched everything. The Tang Sect is too strong. It seems like the Sun Moon team was right to give up in the team round! Five against seven. They wouldn't have been able to beat the Tang Sect, considering how strong and coordinated they are...

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At this point, the Clearjade Sect was at a complete disadvantage. They hadn't given their all yet, but they were already down one member. The rest of them were also being suppressed. Their earlier formation, which was quite strong, was of little value at this point. This left them like headless chickens.

Cain finally acted. When her team members were all in disastrous situations, she burst out like a shadow. She was extremely quick, far quicker than You Chen. As they saw her figure flash, she was already in the air above the Tang Sect team. As she lifted her hands, ten streaks of dark-golden light shot towards the Snow Lady. Not only that, but she also let out a high-pitched shriek.



“Ahhhhhhhh!”

Everyone in the Tang Sect jerked as one, and were slightly delayed as they tried to unleash their abilities.

Quick! Even Huo Yuhao hadn't expected Cain to be so ferocious!

However, the Snow Lady wasn't afraid. She wasn't under Huo Yuhao's control. She possessed her own intelligence, and the fighting capabilities of the Snow Empress.

Against the dark golden rays, her body swayed a little, and she flitted aside like a streak of deep blue light before brushing past them. At the same time, she moved to place her small palm on Cain's chest.

The Snow Empress' Three Ultimate Techniques – Empress' Palm, Snowless Glacier. She immediately used her killer move.

The roar might have been effective on the Tang Sect members. However, how could it have any effect on the Snow Lady?

Cain didn't continue fighting the Snow Lady. As her attack had no effect, she quickly shifted positions, too fast to be caught.

This time, she appeared above Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er. She clawed down at their heads.

As the team leader of the Clearjade Sect, Cain knew that Huo Yuhao was the one commanding the entire team, even though he seemed like he was the weak link by being in a wheelchair.

If he was removed, the Tang Sect's coordination would be messed up. Whatever crisis Zheng Zhan could see, Cain could also see. To win this team round, she had to get rid of the brains behind the Tang Sect.

Dang, dang!

Two crisp sounds echoed out. Cain was stunned. Neither Huo Yuhao nor Wang Dong'er had blocked her attack! It was a big shield instead!

Cain's fighting style was to immediately shift her position after she attacked. Otherwise, she would be in trouble once she was cornered by the Tang Sect. She didn't hesitate at all, her figure flashing away as she returned to the air. This time, she opened up a pair of dark-golden wings behind her back, driving herself up towards the Eye of Fear above her.

At this point, the Eye of Fear had only charged for three seconds. She had chosen the perfect time. If she didn't destroy it immediately, it could pose a threat to her entire team. None of them knew who its next target would be.

However, the weird thing was that no one from the Tang Sect stopped her. No one even tried.

After Xu Sanshi blocked Cain's attack, he moved back in front of the entire team again. His shield was still in front of him, and he watched Qin Yueyue, who was almost done with her power accumulation. At this point, she was already targeting him.

Xu Sanshi had to be overcome first, no matter whether it was because he was a six-ringed Soul Emperor or because he was a defense-type soul master. In their previous clashes, neither Xue Bing nor Cain managed to make any headway because of him.

A weird smile appeared on Xu Sanshi's face. Jiang Nannan shook her head gently when she saw that smile, and also started to act. She moved with a flash, and leapt forward diagonally. Her target was the Anaconda True Body of Xue Bing!

Huo Yuhao's eyes shone with divine light. The Snow Lady returned to his side again, but she stopped behind Xu Sanshi's back. She raised her small and delicate hands. Wang Dong'er could tell that rings and rings of icy-blue light were forming in the center of the Snow Lady's right hand at a rapid rate. Was she... accumulating the power of her Snowless Glacier? What was she doing? The Snowless Glacier would only have sufficient effect if it struck the opponent directly!

However, Wang Dong'er was only a little doubtful. She was also drifting in the air under the guidance of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. Streaks and streaks of Hexagram Arrays rose into the air as both parties fought each other. Their target was the Anaconda True Body.

Xue Bing was unfortunate. He had already been struck once by the Unparalleled Chill as he was careless. Right now, he could only try to maintain his Anaconda True Body. The intense pain and the Ultimate Ice were greatly diminishing his fighting strength.

While a Martial Soul True Body was strong, his was not a true Martial Soul True Body. As his abilities were diminishing, he also didn't dare to face Wang Dong'er's Hexagram Arrays directly. He was also afraid to rush forward. Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron coordinated with Wang Dong'er's Hexagram Arrays to suppress him, preventing him from advancing any further.

At this point, Cain was already in front of the Eye of Fear. She reached out with her claws, about to destroy it. However, a weird feeling engulfed her body suddenly. Cain only felt the space surrounding her distorting furiously. Her claws found nothing. Following that, she realized a familiar yet frightening streak of green light was crashing down from the sky. Her head was its target!

### [Chapter 299.3: Eye of Fear](#)

How is this possible? Cain was astonished. However, she had no choice but to resist the attack. She clawed at the air, creating a dark golden light projection. Her wings also opened to their maximum span behind her.

However, a cool hand pressed against her back just as she was about to use her strongest defense to resist this attack.

None of her team had expected such a huge change to occur. They would still have had a chance if Cain managed to destroy the Eye of Fear. However, Cain and Xu Sanshi's positions were suddenly switched at the perfect moment.

At this point, Qin Yueyue completed her accumulation and slashed down with her blade. Her target was now Cain, who was momentarily lost after she switched positions with Xu Sanshi.

The cool hand contained the Snowless Glacier!

Cain knew she was in deep trouble.

Everything had happened too quickly. The Mysterious Underworld Displacement had the same effect as Instant Teleportation. Zheng Zhan thought he was seeing things as everything changed. There was no time to react.

Everyone from the Tang Sect knew that they had won. As this strike was unleashed, Huo Yuhao also completed another attack. Purplish-gold light flashed in his eyes before Xue Bing screamed pathetically from afar. He was already weakened, but his Martial Soul True Body was immediately dispelled under the attack of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock.

The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron immediately divided into three separate cauldrons before the Cauldron Quake was unleashed on him. Xue Bing was locked in place. At this point, Jiang Nannan was already in front of him, and she kicked him in the chest. He was immediately overcome when Jiang Nannan got close to him.

Even Huo Yuhao believed that they had won this round. Furthermore, Cain was surely going to be killed under the combined attack of Qin Yueyue and the Snow Lady!

The Snowless Glacier could kill a Soul Sage, given enough time to accumulate. Cain was only a six-ringed Soul Emperor. The combination of the Mysterious Underworld Displacement and the Snow Lady was too strong.

However, something changed at this moment.

Cain's body cracked as she was struck by the Snow Lady's palm, before being hit by the blade lights. She instantly split into three parts, which flew off in three different directions.

These three figures turned into three dark-golden bats in the air.

One of the bats turned a deep blue after flying less than three meters. After that, it broke apart. The other two bats quickly flew in two different directions. One of them headed for Huo Yuhao, while the other flew towards Xue Bing, who was being restrained by Jiang Nannan.

What's this? Huo Yuhao was also shocked.

The bat flying towards him had a wingspan of three meters. There was a dark-golden circular ring on its neck, and it screeched as it got close to Huo Yuhao. This screech caused Huo Yuhao to enter a momentary trance.

Following this, the back of the bat shone with a streak of bloody light. A projection that looked exactly like another bat appeared and plunged towards Huo Yuhao's chest.

This skill was sixty to seventy percent similar to the Bloodshadow Human Puppet that Adler had used against Wang Dong'er!

Although Huo Yuhao was in a momentary trance, his reaction was still very quick. A huge, half-transparent light shield blocked his body.

The blood-red eyes of the bat seemed to be filled with disdain. Didn't Wang Dong'er tell Huo Yuhao that the Bloodshadow Human Puppet was able to ignore any form of defense?

However, the body of the bat turned rigid in the next instant. The bloody red projection collided with the shield. It didn't manage to penetrate through, and even staggered after it struck the shield.

Milky-white glows surfaced on the shield, and seemed to form a smiley face. Following this, an exact copy of the blood-colored bat projection was deflected away directly towards the dark-golden bat.

The dark-golden bat screamed in pain before creating a dim golden light projection behind it. This projection changed into spots of golden light that surged towards the shield.

To both parties, their opponent was using very weird abilities. Neither of them expected the other party to possess such abilities.

Cain escaped death, but she didn't feel very well after being attacked repeatedly.

Wang Dong'er and the Snow Lady were still beside Huo Yuhao. The dark-golden bat was stalled for a while after it was hurt by the shield. This momentary delay offered time for Wang Dong'er's Butterfly Goddess Slash to cut towards the bat. A huge ball of light instantly changed into a hundred and eight blades that surrounded the bat.

Another strange scene appeared again. The dark-golden bat blew apart again and changed into countless smaller bats that absconded in different directions, managing to escape from the very concentrated attack of the Butterfly Goddess Slash.

However, not all of them managed to escape, as a few of the smaller bats were still killed.

On the other side, the other dark-golden bat was in a much better situation. The Bloodshadow Human Puppet changed its target to Jiang Nannan, and she had no choice but to escape. Xiao Xiao directly used one of her cauldrons to cover Jiang Nannan, which blocked off the puppet's attack. However, in doing so Cain also managed to alleviate Xue Bing's crisis.

All these changes happened extremely quickly. Qin Yueyue only managed to retract her blade after Xue Bing had already been saved.

However, a streak of red light that exuded a terrifying aura descended from the sky at this moment. This time, its target was Qin Yueyue!

No matter how capable Cain was, she couldn't save Qin Yueyue after she was repeatedly attacked and forced to save Xue Bing.

Zheng Zhan reacted again and blocked the attack for Qin Yueyue. At the same time, he announced her elimination. Two out of the original six members from the Clearjade Sect were eliminated!

It was the Eye of Fear's turn to demonstrate its strength again, and after firing, it started to accumulate its strength again.

He Caitou also unleashed his attack. Countless soul rays and cannon shells were fired towards Xue Bing and Cain. On the other side, Xu Sanshi landed right in between Qing Qing and Chen Jun. This was going to be a clash between shields.

Boom!

Their shields collided with a startlingly loud impact.

While Chen Jun's shield was much bigger than Xu Sanshi's shield, he was much inferior in terms of strength. After the collision, he took several steps back, very unsteady on his feet.

Qing Qing was alert, and quickly retreated. The lights released from her scepter were now directed at Chen Jun.

Xu Sanshi snorted, and his shield shone with a layer of black light. His entire body was also dyed black as his third soul ring shone brightly.

"Let me deal with these two!" With his abilities as a Soul Emperor, it would be very embarrassing if he couldn't deal with two Soul Kings. He was once regarded, along with Bei Bei, as one of the new-generation Gemini of Shrek Academy!

Huo Yuhao didn't rush to attack. He exploited He Caitou's wide area attack, and all of them gathered together into their formation once again.

Wang Dong'er replaced Xu Sanshi, while Xiao Xiao and Jiang Nannan were at her sides. He Caitou and Huo Yuhao were now behind her. Lastly, Na Na was behind Huo Yuhao now as she pushed his wheelchair in place of Wang Dong'er. From the start until now, Na Na hadn't made a single move.

In fact, Na Na was a little unfamiliar in terms of her abilities and coordination with Shrek's Seven Monsters. Huo Yuhao's mission for her was to cover for everyone. If their opponents crept around the back side, her job was to slow them down.

"What martial soul is that?" Na Na asked.

Huo Yuhao shook his head. He was also unsure what Cain's martial soul was. However, the result of this team round had already been decided. The only thing was that they hadn't fully accomplished their goal yet. The Clearjade Sect team was definitely stronger than they had expected.

"Dong'er!" Huo Yuhao called out gently.

"Yes," Wang Dong'er nodded gently in reply. Their minds connected, and she understood what he wanted even as he spoke.

An intense beam of golden light rose from Wang Dong'er's body. Her upper body bent back, her waist supported her as she formed a bow shape with her body. She grabbed onto Huo Yuhao's shoulders with her hands and did a handstand on his body. The rest of the Tang Sect quickly separated to the side.

The air seemed to freeze at this point. Countless streaks of blinding light started to spew out from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er.

Time seemed to stop at this moment too.

The Radiant Butterfly Goddess' golden-blue wings expanded rapidly. Almost instantly, their size doubled.

Originally, she only had front and rear wings, but right now, there was an additional pair of jade-green wings in the middle. They were smooth, shiny, and dazzling. A strong aura of life came from this

additional pair of wings, as if they were saying that the true meaning of life was light and water. Their aura of life complemented her aura of light.

As the dazzling wings opened up, blue, golden, and green lights seemed to shine with countless other colors. There seemed to be countless beads of gently rolling water on the wings. They refracted all the light shining from them. Countless streaks of light shone brightly, and layers and layers of frost were released as well, starting from the bottom of her feet. They made her slender figure appear even more elegant.

As the frost spread, everything around her seemed to turn into a world of ice and snow. As the chilly aura spread, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er's fused body also started to shockingly transform. Huo Yuhao disappeared, and a slender figure quietly appeared amid the tri-colored glow.

It was a lady, a lady that seemed to have already matured, more than a hundred and eighty centimeters tall. Her slender figure was extremely captivating.

She had long, powdery-blue hair that flowed all the way to her feet. Her eyes were a bright gold, and her figure was beyond perfect. Her ravishing looks made all the ladies present pale in comparison. Every streak of light and every curve on her body complemented the other. No one could describe how they felt when they first saw her. However, everyone's attention was captured by her the instant she appeared.

#### [Chapter 300.1: Defeating Clearjade!](#)

She moved in the next moment. She leapt gently forward with her left leg, and her slender figure was suddenly halfway in the air. Her tri-colored butterfly wings brought her skywards effortlessly.

Thick icy fog spread from her legs and turned into streaks surrounding her as she rose.

A ray of sunlight descended from the sky and landed straight on her like a spotlight from the heavens.

The golden glow accentuated her figure even further, and she seemed like a goddess, born amid the light.

As she danced in the air, every step she took was gentle and perfect. Her moving looks were covered by the glow of life and hope, and her six wings were the best accessories she could possibly have. The Raiment of Light was revealed as she was covered by the warm sunshine.

The ravishing figure started to perform a solitary dance amid the icy fog. Her tri-colored wings extended and retracted, making her elegance even more dazzling.

A subtle golden talisman silently appeared on her forehead. As light flashed from the talisman, it revealed a gentle glow. Intense spiritual undulations caused her to enter a miraculous state.

Solitary Dance Amidst the Frost, Raiment of Light!

Just like in the last round of the tournament in the Star Luo Empire, everyone was astonished when the Goddess of Light appeared. Everyone's gaze was focused on her. They couldn't believe that a person could be so beautiful.

As the dazzling, tri-colored wings opened up, the Goddess of Light took a step forward and seemed to shrink space about her. She advanced several dozen meters and appeared in front of the opponents that had survived the explosion.

The two remaining dark golden bats gathered together. A light flashed, and they formed a larger bat. However, this bat had two heads! In fact, it was more accurate to say that it had three heads! It was just that one was only left with the stump of a neck, there wasn't any head left. Evidently, it must have had been struck off by the Snowless Glacier!

Everyone from the Tang Sect finally realized what Cain's martial soul was. It was an extremely rare but top-ranked martial soul, the Darkgolden Three-headed Batking!

It wasn't only strong; it was a terrifying martial soul that only appeared after a mutation occurred. In the world of soul masters, it was a powerful martial soul that had previously only existed in legends!

Right now, Cain was definitely in her Martial Soul True Body. Her trump card was similar to Xue Bing. They both used soul tools to forcefully enhance themselves to reach their Martial Soul True Body state. However, they were both spent right now, and it was very difficult for them to maintain their Martial Soul True Bodies anymore. After all, their Martial Soul True Bodies had been forced to manifest. Compared to real Martial Soul True Bodies, they could at most unleash sixty percent of their maximum abilities in such a state.

However, sixty percent of Cain's maximum abilities was enough to save her life. Otherwise, the combination of the Snowless Glacier and Executioner's Blade would've killed her.

As the Goddess of Light opened her wings, an extremely chilly aura was released. Wang Dong'er and Huo Yuhao didn't just possess two and three rings like they had the last time they unleashed the Solitary Dance Amidst the Frost in a tournament. They were very strong now!

Without any warning, a snowstorm was unleashed, with the Goddess of Light at the center of it. Three people were immediately engulfed by this snowstorm, and those on the outside couldn't see what was happening.

Yes, it was the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice!

The Goddess of Light was Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er's last martial soul fusion skill because it wasn't an attack that could only be used one time. They could attack continuously and unleash their complete fighting strength!

They weren't able to maintain such strength or use so much power in the past. However, the Goddess of Light was able to unleash all of their abilities now. It wasn't their Martial Soul True Body; it was stronger than a Martial Soul True Body!

The referee, Zheng Zhan, cursed and immediately rushed in the direction of the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice. As he couldn't see what was going on, he couldn't tell what they were up to. It was a dazzling martial soul fusion skill! He didn't expect them to have such a trick up their sleeves!

Inside the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice, Cain and Xue Bing felt as if they had entered an extremely chilly world. They even felt their blood solidifying in the cold. As their bloodflow slowed, they felt the circulation of their soul power also dropping significantly.

Xue Bing had been thrown onto the floor several times by Jiang Nannan earlier, and could feel his body breaking apart. His soul power was almost depleted after two consecutive fights. Against the extreme cold, he could only forcefully circulate his soul power to resist the snowflakes that resembled sharp knives.

Cain was in a better state. However, one of her bat heads had been destroyed. This hurt her martial soul, and she couldn't recover from this in a day or two like normal. It was just like Xiao Xiao when her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron had been crushed; she might even not recover completely at all!

Cain let out a piercing scream. It was her Terrorscream again. She didn't expect her skill to hurt the Goddess of Light, she was only trying to find her opponent. She didn't want to rush out blindly. In this snowblind world, she couldn't possibly get her directions right. She didn't know where her enemy was, and she still had to protect Xue Bing. Thus, she didn't dare to act recklessly.

"Don't waste your energy. Don't worry, I won't kill the two of you," a moving voice sounded. The frost seemed to split, revealing a ravishing figure slowly walking toward them.

Even though they were in harsh conditions, Xue Bing's eyes widened in shock when he saw the Goddess of Light. He couldn't believe that there was someone so perfect in this world.

The Darkgolden Three-headed Batking's wings opened wide, and Cain burst towards the Goddess of Light like a bolt of lightning. She knew that their surroundings would return to normal as long as she could defeat the Goddess of Light!

It was a pity that she was engulfed by a beam of golden and blue light less than five meters after she moved. It was a Hexagram Array that now also carried the Ultimate Ice. Within this Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice, the aura that it released was entirely concealed.

The Darkgolden Three-headed Batking struggled indignantly. Xue Bing also tried to stand up and resist further. However, they were in very weak states right now.

Outside the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice, three huge cauldrons blocked the Unbreakable Douluo Zheng Zhan as he rushed out. One of the cauldrons was stacked on top of the other two cauldrons.

"Referee, you can't interfere since victory hasn't been decided yet," Xiao Xiao spoke out. Right now, they had already gathered on the other side to aid Xu Sanshi in his formation.

"Get lost!" Zheng Zhan shouted in fury. He clapped his hands, and a wave of dominant soul power swept the cauldrons to one side. However, the terrifying red in the sky appeared once again as he tried to burst towards the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice.

Zheng Zhan turned pale, and he was about to curse.

Even though he was a Titled Douluo, he couldn't separate his body like the Darkgolden Three-headed Batking! On the one hand, he couldn't tell what the situation was like inside the snowstorm. On the other, he was afraid of someone else dying if they were struck by the terrifying ray. He was left with no choice. His figure flashed, and he blocked the attack on Qing Qing, also announcing that she had been eliminated.



Chen Jun was kicked out a few seconds after Qing Qing. Even though his shield had many special skills, he didn't stand a chance with his inferior cultivation. Xu Sanshi's Turtle God's Strike helped him destroy his opponent's shield directly. If not for Zheng Zhan's intervention, Chen Jun's body would also have been crushed.

As this slight delay happened, the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice on the other side also spread out and began to vanish.

The Goddess of Light danced. Her wings opened and turned into a streak of flowing light that moved straight towards the Golden Tree wheelchair. At this point, there were two ice sculptures left within the area covered by the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice.

Cain had already regained her original look. She was actually an attractive young lady with a weirdly pale complexion.

Xue Bing was in a more tragic state. There were huge wounds on his chest and belly. However, these injuries couldn't be seen clearly, as he was frozen.

"Referee, we've won." The Goddess of Light turned back into two people as a final light flashed. Huo Yuhao was quietly sitting in his wheelchair, while Wang Dong'er was standing in front of him. The two of them looked at each other and smiled.

Zheng Zhan quickly rushed in front of the two ice sculptures. After a few attempts, he realized he couldn't melt them free. The two ice sculptures were very hard, and their temperatures were extremely low. He didn't dare to forcefully break the ice. If he did so, the two of them would die very quickly.

"Quickly, defrost them." Zheng Zhan quickly came over in front of Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er.

Huo Yuhao appeared very weak, "I'm sorry! Referee, my soul power isn't sufficient, so I can't melt them. Don't worry, their lives won't be in danger, as the temperature of Ultimate Ice is very low. When my soul power recovers, I can help to melt them. Their pulse just has to be restarted before they can regain their life power. In this state, they won't die even after a year."

"Life..." Zheng Zhan was helpless as he looked at Huo Yuhao

Huo Yuhao smiled as he said, "Isn't it great that we've removed one more strong opponent for the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy?"

Wang Dong'er added, "You should announce that we've won."

Zheng Zhan took in a deep breath. He knew that there were some things that a referee like him couldn't do. If they didn't want to melt the two of them, what could he do? It was the Ultimate Ice. No one on the continent would dare to melt these ice sculptures!

"The Tang Sect wins the team round, and this match! Tang Sect - nine points. Clearjade Sect - seven points!"

Victory! The Tang Sect progressed to the next round!

[Chapter 300.2: Defeating Clearjade!](#)

“What have you done to our captain and vice-captain?” The substitutes for the Clearjade Sect, as well as You Chen, Qin Yueyue, Chen Jun, Qingqing and the rest, surrounded them as they descended from the stage.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, “They will be fine. After a few days, I’ll defrost them when my soul power recovers.”

“In a few days? Why does your soul power take so long to recover?” Qin Yueyue was furious as she glared at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, “I’m sorry! Can’t you see that I’m crippled? It’s already not easy for me to compete. Furthermore, I’m the only one who can defrost them. Please be nicer to me. Otherwise, I’ll leave them frozen forever.”

Chen Jun said, “How long will it take before you are willing to defrost them? If you take too long, their lives will be in danger.”

Huo Yuhao said, “Three days. I’ll take at most three days before I defrost them. You must give me some time to rest.”

Three days? Won’t they miss the next round if it takes three days? Everyone from the Clearjade Sect looked extremely furious and resentful. However, they were helpless!

Jing Ziyang and Ji Juechen had already arrived at this point. Ji Juechen lifted his Judgment Sword and coolly said, “There’s still another way. If any one of you can beat me in a duel, he can also help to defrost your captain and vice-captain.”

After everyone from the Clearjade Sect heard his words, their eyes brightened.

Chen Jun asked, “Are you going to stay true to your promise?” He was staring at Huo Yuhao instead of Ji Juechen.

Huo Yuhao’s expression turned weird, and he nodded his head. He said, “Yes. He’s with us. If you can defeat him, I’ll defrost your captain and vice-captain.”

“Let’s go. Let’s find a place!” everyone from Clearjade Sect shouted quickly.

Jing Ziyang chuckled and responded, “We don’t have to go to too much trouble. It’s the suburbs, anyway. We just need to move a bit further from the tournament venue. If he loses, Yuhao will defrost them when we return to the Ming Yue Hotel. Let’s go!”

After seeing Ji Juechen off, Jing Ziyang left with everyone from the Clearjade Sect. Huo Yuhao shook his head helplessly.

Wang Dong’er was amused. “It’s my first time hearing Brother Ji speak so much.”

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, “He must have been holding it in for too long! Originally, I wanted to freeze those two fellows for a few days and let them off only after they finished their fight with Team Shrek. However, it seems like they won’t even have seven members available for the fight the day after even if I defrost those two now. Na Na, can you follow them and tell Brother Ji not to kill anyone? We have no enmity with the Clearjade Sect.”

“Yes.” Na Na hurried after them.

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After this fight, the Tang Sect was recognized as a dark horse in this tournament. They managed to emerge victorious in two fights even though their opponents were strong. In addition, no one from their side was injured. This series of results made them one of the favorites to win their group.

There were a lot of people who were guessing how the Tang Sect would fare against Shrek Academy. However, it was still too early to say. That was because the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy were only facing off in the last match of their group.

Shrek Academy’s schedule was very kind to them. They were going to face Team Sun Moon in their penultimate match. Before that, they didn’t really have any strong opponents. The Clearjade Sect might have potentially hurt their chances, but their encounter with the Tang Sect greatly hampered their abilities.

Everyone from the Tang Sect returned to the hotel to rest, not staying to watch the rest of the matches. Once they reached the hotel, they received a notification that they were being moved to the second story of the hotel, into an extremely luxurious suite.

This was undoubtedly the result of their performances in the tournament.

“Eldest senior, this was what happened.” Huo Yuhao recounted the details of their fight to Bei Bei.

Bei Bei nodded and said, “Good job. Yuhao, you are even better than me in terms of commanding the team. Continue to work hard!”

Huo Yuhao sighed in his heart as he saw that Bei Bei’s face was still as pale as ever. “Eldest senior, your condition doesn’t seem to be improving. The opponents we’ll be meeting in the later stages of the tournament are only going to get stronger and stronger. I’m under a lot of pressure!”

Bei Bei chortled and said, “Since when were you scared of pressure? Don’t think too much, and strive forward. From what you said, our main opponents are Shrek, the Sun Moon Soul Engineering Academy, the Holy Ghost Sect, and the unknown Body Sect. Apart from these few teams, there are the other traditional powerhouses, as well! None of them will be easy to deal with! This tournament might be the most intense competition for the past few thousand years! You just need to remember to be steady as you take each step.”

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “I’ll do my best. Our advantage is still quite great. However, it’s difficult to judge our opponents’ abilities. As the tournament continues, our opponents will also slowly learn about our trump cards. Their analysis and research of us will be more thorough, and it’ll become increasingly difficult to advance further.”

Bei Bei smiled as he saw the mature look on Huo Yuhao’s face, “Yuhao, don’t put too much pressure on yourself. We are representing the Tang Sect this time. This means that we are representing ourselves too! We don’t have to be bothered about our final ranking. I believe our name has spread far and wide from our last two performances. It won’t be difficult to advance from the round-robin stage. We’ve actually already met our intended goals.”

“In fact, Sanshi and the others drew a good lot this time! If Shrek can advance to the quarterfinals, we’ll meet them in the finals. We won’t have to worry about meeting them earlier. How’re things on their side?”

Huo Yuhao said, “Under Qiu’er’s guidance, their overall abilities have greatly increased. Qiu’er’s abilities seem to have become stronger too. Their first few opponents in the round-robin stage were quite easy to deal with. They are facing the Clearjade Sect in their next match. We deliberately battered the Clearjade Sect today. I don’t think they’ll be a threat to Shrek anymore. If they want to advance, we’ll have to see how they fare against the Sun Moon team. It’s a pity that Xiao Hongchen was too cautious, and wasn’t willing to challenge us in the team fight. Otherwise, we would’ve given them a good beating even if we had to pay a hefty price for it.”

Bei Bei chortled and said, “We’ve already tried our best. We don’t have to be too hard on ourselves, either. Yuhao, you still need to compete in the underground tournament tomorrow night. Quickly go and rest.”

“Alright.” Huo Yuhao nodded, “Eldest senior, rest well too. We’re looking forward to your leadership. The round-robin stage isn’t too tough. You don’t have to worry. However, I’m confident we can become champions if you can recover to lead us again.”

As he saw Huo Yuhao’s grin, Bei Bei patted Huo Yuhao on his shoulder, “I’ll try my best.”

“Okay. Dong’er, let’s go.”

Bei Bei sat up after Wang Dong’er left with Huo Yuhao. His eyes brightened, and he didn’t seem as fatigued as before. He sighed and said, “Yuhao, I’m sorry for putting you under so much pressure. However, I have no choice! Good luck! With you around, the Tang Sect will only become stronger and stronger no matter what happens to me.”

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The Star Luo National Academy resting lounge...

Princess Jiujiu was quietly sitting in the main seat, the other team members of the academy in the room with her. They had just won in the afternoon and achieved two consecutive victories in their last two fights.

“I didn’t expect the Tang Sect to still be so strong, even though Huo Yuhao is in a wheelchair and Bei Bei hasn’t appeared. They were still able to defeat their opponents easily even though their opponents consisted of two Soul Emperors and five Soul Kings. They aren’t easy to deal with!”

One young man who was seated just beside Princess Jiujiu smiled and said, “Your Highness, they are the champions from the last tournament. It wouldn’t be right if they didn’t perform well. However, don’t worry. Even if we meet them in the quarterfinals, we might not lose to them.”

If the Tang Sect reached the quarterfinals, it was very likely they would meet the runners-up of Star Luo National Academy. Apart from the Star Luo National Academy, the Holy Ghost Sect was also in their group. As a result, the Star Luo National Academy was fighting to finish as runners-up.

“You are so confident?” Princess Jiujiu looked across at him.

The young man smiled and said, "In fact, every team should be able to tell that the Tang Sect is strong, but their weakness is that they don't have a preparatory squad. This tournament is very intense. Who can guarantee that none of them will get injured? In my opinion, I don't think it'll be smooth-sailing for them all the way."

Princess Jiujiu was a little cold as she said, "What about us? Do you think we can make it out of the quarterfinals?"

The young man's expression turned rigid. "Your Highness, forgive me for being direct. Our opponents in this tournament are very strong. If we can make it out of the round-robin stage, it's because our group is easy."

Princess Jiujiu glared at him. He remained very calm, and wasn't suppressed by her aura.

At this point, someone knocked on the door.

"Come in." Xu Jiujiu shifted her attention.

The door opened, and a fearless-looking middle-aged man walked quickly to Xu Jiujiu. He whispered something in her ear.

"What? Do they really dare to..." Xu Jiujiu's eyes were filled with astonishment. "Continue to investigate. I want accurate information!"

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The weather in Radiant City had turned chilly over the past few days. After sunset, the temperature would drop significantly. Due to a few ore mines being active around Radiant City, the air quality here was worse than other places on the continent. The air would only clear up after strong winds blew.

Wang Dong'er looked to her sides as she strolled along the streets. "I still prefer the simplicity of Shrek City. The metallic feel here is too strong."

### [Chapter 300.3: Defeating Clearjade!](#)

Huo Yuhao chortled as he sat in his wheelchair and said, "Me too! However, I've got to admit that the Sun Moon Empire's technological improvements are way beyond everyone else's. Otherwise, the three empires in the Douluo Continent wouldn't be so afraid of them."

Wang Dong'er nodded and said, "Yuhao, how inferior do you think they are in comparison to the Sun Moon Empire in terms of technology?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "It's hard to tell. After all, I've no access to the top secrets of the three empires. Judging from the architectural styles and soul tool developments of the various empires, I believe the three empires are a hundred years behind the Sun Moon Empire. This is even including the fact that the three empires have been catching up over the past three years. There's actually something that the Sun Moon Empire didn't do so well in."

"What thing?" He Caitou was curious.

Huo Yuhao chortled and replied, "They can't keep their secrets well! Even the Sun Moon Empire might not have noticed it, but their technologies have been leaked quite frequently. The three empires in the three continents only needed a few decades before they managed to steal the technologies of the Sun Moon Empire, empowering their own technological development. Even though they are still inferior, which makes things a little less obvious, they might creep even closer to the Sun Moon Empire if given a few more years."

He Caitou appeared thoughtful as he nodded agreement and said, "You're right. At least some of the soul tools produced by the Sun Moon Empire have appeared in auctions in other parts of the continent. They are stricter in their control of rare metals, though."

Huo Yuhao twisted his lips and said, "They are neglecting the fundamentals and concentrating on the details. While rare metals are rare, what if someone finds substitutes for them? Furthermore, physical force can be used to obtain rare metals. True soul tool technology is very difficult to create. If not for the fact that the Sun Moon Empire's restrictions on Class 7 and above soul tools were slightly stricter, I'm sure their gap with the other empires might be even closer."

He Caitou furrowed his brow and said, "Aren't we doing the same thing too? You are the most invested in it!"

Huo Yuhao twisted his head to look at He Caitou and asked, "Second senior, I've always wanted to ask you a question. Do you still regard yourself as part of the Sun Moon Empire?"

He Caitou was stunned, and turned to look at Huo Yuhao. As their gazes met, Huo Yuhao saw the emotions lurking deep in He Caitou's eyes.

After remaining silent for a moment, He Caitou said, "Little junior, I don't want to lie to you. That's why I'm not going to answer your question. You just need to remember that I'll always be a part of the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy. That should be enough."

"Okay." Huo Yuhao stopped probing and nodded acceptance.

Wang Dong'er was stunned by their conversation. She had always believed that He Caitou was a simple, honest, and even slightly awkward person. All these were especially obvious when he was with Xiao Xiao. He was always so embarrassed, which gave off a very loveable feeling. However, she could tell from this conversation that he wasn't that simple of a person! Huo Yuhao also seemed to know something that she did not...

She squeezed Huo Yuhao's shoulder gently. She had already thought about it. She was going to ask Huo Yuhao what was going on when they returned from the underground tournament.

Huo Yuhao looked ahead, his gaze peaceful. He enjoyed the refreshing air. Even though it was slightly polluted, his mind was clearer in this air.

The Tang Sect's abilities were slowly being revealed as they proceeded further and further along in the tournament. They were bound to have attracted attention from different parties. They were also being treated more nicely. However, this also meant that their opponents were monitoring them more closely, and were doing their research on them.

Huo Yuhao wasn't very concerned about the Tang Sect's matches in the tournament. They had drawn an unfavorable lot initially, and met two strong opponents in their first two matches. If they had lost even one person, they would find it very difficult in the successive matches. However, they had achieved victory in their starting two matches. Huo Yuhao was even a bit stunned by how well they had done. He could even clearly sense that his comrade's abilities hadn't been completely demonstrated yet, and everyone was still holding back a little. Under such circumstances, it wasn't going to be a problem even if they met the Holy Ghost Sect. Would the Holy Ghost Sect even be able to threaten them?

Huo Yuhao was only hoping that Bei Bei would get better. Honestly speaking, he was more willing to be the main control soul master of the team, and not the team leader. He was only ranked sixth among Shrek's Seven Monsters in terms of seniority. He had five seniors who were older than him. To some extent, they were more suited to command the team than him.

Huo Yuhao was most worried about Shrek's team right now. The Tang Sect had battered the Clearjade Sect, so they would cease to be a threat. However, the Sun Moon team was still as strong as ever. In order to advance through the round-robin stage, Shrek would have to beat them!

The Sun Moon team and Shrek's team were arch-enemies! It was a fight where both parties had to give it their all. No one knew what the result was going to be. While Wang Qiu'er was indeed very strong, she was alone. Could she really lead Shrek to victory against the Sun Moon Soul Engineering Academy and enter the quarterfinals with the Tang Sect?

Even though Huo Yuhao's conscience was clear, and the Tang Sect had done everything they could to help Shrek advance, he was still very worried. He also knew that he wasn't the only one worried. All his teammates were also worried. In their hearts, Shrek's glory was as important as the Tang Sect's glory!

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They finally reached the Green Hotel. Huo Yuhao was in a bit of a daze, but he soon regained his focus. A proud look appeared in his eyes again, and he lifted his head slightly as he leaned back against his wheelchair's backrest.

Chen An was there to receive them at the entrance of the hotel. When he saw the four of them, he quickly rushed up to welcome them.

"You're here!" Chen An said respectfully.

"Yes," Huo Yuhao snorted. "What's the situation today?"

Chen An replied, "There are three powerful soul engineers with us here today. Two of them are Class 6 soul engineers, and the other one is a Class 7 soul engineer. They are part of the refereeing team."

"What about you?" Huo Yuhao looked at him.

Chen An laughed bitterly. "I'm playing second fiddle to them. I only managed to come out because I mentioned that I was receiving important guests."

"Oh, you're good." Huo Yuhao nodded at him, and his expression became slightly gentler.

"Sir, it's like this: I didn't know what today's tournament would be like beforehand. The rules were only announced after the betting floor was opened. The forty-eight competitors in the previous round will be

divided into twenty-four groups of two, and one out of the two in each group will be eliminated. They won't have any restrictions on the soul tools they can create. We'll provide all types of rare metals and normal metals for the soul engineers to use. However, they have a time limit this time of four hours. After four hours, they must test their soul tools live in front of everyone. A soul engineer can observe his opponent's soul tool without touching it. If he discovers that his soul tool is too inferior to his opponent's soul tool, he can choose to concede defeat. If neither parties concedes defeat, they will challenge each other. They will fight with the soul tools that they created, and they won't be allowed to use any other soul tools or soul skills. The winner will advance."

As he finished speaking, Chen An paused, then added, "They can kill each other."

Huo Yuhao twisted his lips. "They can actually kill each other. So today's betting plate is on the winner?"

Chen An nodded and said, "There are still many other events. For example, you can bet on how many fights there will be and how many people will die. Of course, the main one is on the winner. We'll be providing the odds based on the results of the previous round. These odds will change based on the wagers until the fights begin."

Huo Yuhao nodded. He lifted his hand and called Na Na. In front of Chen An, he said, "One minute before the tournament begins, bet one million gold soul coins that I'll win."

Chen An was stunned after hearing his words. It was a gamble! Huo Yuhao didn't even know who his opponent was going to be, but he bet such a large amount of himself. In addition, he would plunge the odds on him to win if he made such a bet just before today's round began. Not only was he confident, but he was also very clever.

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "I lost the other time, so I need to get some of my money back. Let's go in."

Huo Yuhao's number was sixty-six. Chen An told him his opponent was number forty-eight. From what he had judged in the earlier round, his opponent was an outstanding Class 4 soul engineer. He might even be close to a Class 5 soul engineer.

He Caitou's number was 88, and his opponent was number 21. He was another Class 4 soul engineer, and was slightly weaker than Huo Yuhao's opponent.

When they entered the VIP lounge, Huo Yuhao saw the number 96 and 98 competitors from earlier seated in the lounge. They were a little earlier today, and they didn't bring their subordinates with them. They were talking to each other.

Number 96 smiled and nodded at the four of them when they entered. Huo Yuhao returned the greeting, but the arrogant look on his face didn't disappear.

Number 98 was a little colder. He was even scornful as he looked at Huo Yuhao.

Chen An sent the four of them into the lounge before he left. After all, there was still other stuff that he had to deal with.

Wang Dong'er served Huo Yuhao a glass of fruit juice, but he only took one sip. On the other side, number 96 stood up and walked over.



“How are you, my friend? Can we chat?” He bowed slightly and was very formal as he greeted Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, “Please, take a seat.”

Number 96 sat beside him on the sofa, and asked very naturally, “May I know your name?”

Huo Yuhao replied, “My number is 66. I know your number is 96.”